



ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society

January/February 2007

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Material for inclusion in Echo Ireland should be sent to

Dave Moore, EI4BZ
Dooneen, Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork
ei4bz@eircom.net
021-4883555/087-6290574

The views expressed in Echo Ireland do not necessarily represent the views of the Society or the Editor

Next deadline April 1st



AFRI75 - IRTS 75th Jubilee DXpedition 2007 Team Members

Back row - David GI4FUM/EI4DJ, Paul EI2CA, Aidan EI8CE, Peter GI4VIV
Middle row - Peter EI7CC, Brendan EI3GV, Mary XYL of EI7CC
Front row - Rory EI4DJB

Photo: GI4FUM/EI4DJ

IRTS Committee March 31st

Spring Counties Contest April 9th

Lough Erne Rally April 22nd

IRTS AGM Weekend April 21/22nd 2007

CW Field Day June 2/3rd

Bangor Rally June 17th

Friedrichshafen Hamfest June 22/24th

Theory Examination June 28th

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Society Officers 2006/2007

President:	Fr. Finbarr Buckley EI1CS	021-4346622	buckleyf1@eircom.net
Vice President:	Paul Martin EI2CA	087-2523908	paul@comma.ie
Hon. Vice-Presidents:	Con Hunter, EI9V	01-8429633	
	Sean Nolan EI7CD	01-2851599	ei7cd@gofree.indigo.ie
Auditors:	Ger Gervin EI8CC, Tom McLoughlin EI400		
Secretary:	Dave Moore EI4BZ	087-6290574	ei4bz@eircom.net
Treasurer:	Sean Donelan EI4GK	01-2821420	seandonelan@indigo.ie
P.R.O.	Paul Martin EI2CA	087-2523908	paul@comma.ie
AREN Co-ordinator:	John Ketch EI2GN	086-2593005	ei2gn@ketch.ie
Awards Committee:	Peter Grant EI4HX (Chair)	087-9772904	ei4hxperimental@eircom.net
	Fergus Millar EI6IB, John Ronan EI7IG.		
ComReg Liaision	Sean Nolan EI7CD	01-2851599	ei7cd@gofree.indigo.ie
Contest Manager:	Brian Canning EI8IU	086-2514822	brianei8iu@eircom.net
EMC:	Stephen O'Leary EI6JA	086-8593474	sgol@eircm.net
EuroCom	Sean Donelan EI4GK	01-2821420	seandonelan@indigo.ie
Gaeilge:	Pádraig Ó Meachair EI7GK	0404-67658	ei7gk@esatclear.ie
External Awards/WEIC:	Sean Nolan, EI7CD	01-2851599	ei7cd@gofree.indigo.
IARU	Sean Nolan, EI7CD	01-2851599	ei7cd@gofree.indigo.ie
IARUMS	Thos Caffrey EI2JD	087-2953256	thoscaffrey@hotmail.com
IRTS Shop:	Peter Grant EI4HX	087-9772904	ei4hxperimental@eircom.net
Membership Officer:	Joe Ryan EI7GY	01-2854250	jryan@iol.ie
Morse Testing Co-Ord.:	Sean Donelan EI4GK	01-2821420	seandonelan@indigo.ie
Chief Morse Tester:	Dan Lloyd EI3AE	01-8382774	danielloyd@eircom.net.
P.O. Box 462	Michael McNamara EI2CL	01-8372493	ei2clmike@eircom.net
Publications Editor:	Dave Moore EI4BZ	021-4883555	ei4bz@eircom.net
Publications Distribution	Sean Donelan EI4GK	01-2821420	seandonelan@indigo.ie
Radio News Editor:	Mark Wall EI7IS	087-6302026	cyberis@vodafone.ie
Repeater Co-ordinator	Joe Fadden EI3IX	087-2381054	joe_fadden@yahoo.com
Theory Examination	Sean Nolan EI7CD (Sub - Committee Chairman)	01-2851599	ei7cd@gofree.indigo.
VHF Manager:	Joe Fadden EI3IX	087-2381054	joe_fadden@yahoo.com
WAI Awards Manager:	Tom Rea EI2GP	093-35523	tomre@eircom.net
WAI Book Sales:	Noel Mulvihill EI6HW	0906-474726	nfmulvihill@eircom.net
Webmaster:	Joe Ryan EI7GY	01-2854250	jryan@iol.ie

QSL Bureau

QSL Inwards Manager:	Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX.	041-9841817	patfitzpatrick@hotmail.com ei8jk@amsat.org
QSL Outwards Manager:	Tony Baldwin EI8JK		
Incoming QSL Sub Managers:			
0/1/Calls & SWL:	John Browne EI7FAB.		
2 Series Calls:	Thos Caffrey EI2JD	087-2953256	thoscaffrey@hotmail.com
3 Series Calls:	Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX.	041-9841817	patfitzpatrick@hotmail.com
4 Series Calls:	Jim Ryan EI3DP	021-4632365	sigma4@oceanfree.net
5 Series Calls	Andy Jay EI5JF		ei5jf@dnai.ie
6 Series Calls:	Rory Hinchy EI4DJB		rhinchy@iee.org
7 Series Calls	Dave McGlone EI7JK	086-1960312	dmcglobe@esatclear.ie
8 Series Calls:	Brian Canning EI8IU	086-2514822	brianei8iu@eircom.net
9 Series Calls:	Dave Deane EI9FBB	086-3909373	ei9fbb@oceanfree.net

News Bulletins and Readers

Sunday			
Dublin	1100	7.043	SSB
Wicklow	1130	3.680	SSB (as Gaeilge)
Dublin	1145	145.525	FM
Dublin	1200	3.650	SSB
Tipperary	2030	145.450	FM
Dublin	2130	145.525	FM
Monday			
Cork	2000	145.750	FM
Limerick	2000	145.725	FM
Louth	2000	145.675	
Galway	2000	145.625	
Tuesday			
Waterford	2130	145.650	FM
			Gareth EI7FZB, Robbie EI8FZB

EI6DZ Silent Key

Dermot Kenny (EI6DZ) died on December 27th after a short illness. He was a former Ships RO, and a member of The Galway VHF Group since its inception.

Dermots main love in Amateur Radio was listening to CW and supporting the Galway VHF Group's AREN activities.

Theory Examination

The results of the most recent Theory Examination for the Experimenter's Licence were issued by ComReg at the end of January.

Of the thirteen candidates who sat the examination, nine were successful which is a pass rate of 69%.

Since the IRTS took over responsibility for the setting, organising and correcting the licence examination in May 2005, four examinations have been held. A total of 66 candidates sat these examinations and 44 of these were successful. This represents an average pass mark of 67%.

We offer our congratulations to those who passed the most recent examination and we hope to welcome them to the bands real soon

The next examination will be held on Thursday June 28th.

Vacancy for QSL Manager Inwards for the 7 series.

Our thanks to Dave McGlone EI7JK who has carried out the duties of manager for the 7's for some time. Dave has to take a break for a while and anyone interested should contact Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX on 041-9841817

IRTS Elected Committee Members 2006/07

President Fr. Finbarr Buckley EI1CS
Vice-President Paul Martin EI2CA

Committee

Thos Caffrey EI2JD
Joe Fadden EI3IX
Dave Moore EI4BZ
Peter Grant EI4HX
Paul O'Kane EI5DI
Fergus Millar EI6IB
Sean Nolan EI7CD
John Ronan EI7IG
Seamus McCague EI8BP
Brian Canning EI8IU
John McCarthy EI8JA

Richard Craig EI9ET - Silent Key

A tribute by Chris EI6IA

The voice of "Sunny Skibbereen"

I got my B licence in 1993. After speaking to Dick on the Cork Repeater, he was anxious for us to meet up and I subsequently met him at his home in Skibbereen.

Dick had a phrase when he signed off, he would always say "73 from Sunny Skibbereen."

I didn't leave his house until the early hours of the morning and we had a great time discussing everything from religion to politics to radio and computers.

I was fascinated by his in-depth knowledge of many various topics, there was very little about anything which he did not know. We became great friends and I used to visit him every Friday.

Dick moved to West Cork as a result of a friendship he developed with the late experimenter Rex Murphy EI7EB of Bantry. Rex conveyed the beauty of West Cork to Dick and it was enough for Dick to move there from his native Glasgow in Scotland.

Dick was blind. He never liked the term whitestick and did not have a problem with being called blind even though I acknowledge to the readers that it is politically incorrect these days.

Despite his blindness Dick was a person of amazing strength and he had great technical knowledge of computers and radio. He wanted to know how everything worked and a general overview wouldn't be good enough for him, he would want to know every precise detail.

Dick had an impressive radio shack and I was always eager to see his latest additions after his trips to his daughter in the US. He would also bring home the most up to date gadgets for the blind. Everything in his house talked!

I can remember spending days with him working on his antennae and other interesting projects. He had a inverted V, a G5RV and a 7 element Tonna beam.

Dick was very active on HF and enjoyed chatting on the nets, he was a true rag chewer and could chew it for hours.

Dick also had an amazing sense of humour and had in my opinion a gift whereby he could make the coldest and hardest of personalities feel at home and relaxed.

Dick was always in good form and loved joking around, he was certainly the life of the party.

I was very saddened to hear of his passing on January 2nd.



I had been with him a week before that and we spoke of the old times. Alas, he knew he was coming to the end of the road but he assured me he had great respect for all of the amateur radio community and the hobby.

Dick was very musical as well and loved to play piano, trumpet, guitar, mandolin, saxophone, clarinet, accordion plus many more instruments I'm not aware of.

My fiancee Bridget and myself visited Dick very often and we have many wonderful memories of him. One page is not enough to talk about Dick, indeed a whole newsletter is probably not enough!

Dick shall always be remembered, he was unique, to quote what Aedan EI3EG said, "He had one of the most enquiring minds I have ever met."

I shall miss my dear friend and mentor Dick, no more shall Jaws speak on his computer, no more shall his phone read out his text messages and no more shall EI9ET wish us "73 from Sunny Skibbereen!"

My deepest sympathies to June, Marina, Irene, Pamela and Rikki. May he rest in peace.

Chris EI6IA

Two new Summits On The Air Associations

The **USA (W2) Association**, under the leadership of Andrew Pepper, KC2EUS starts on 1st March 2007.

This Association covers the states of New York and New Jersey, although as yet there are no summits defined in New Jersey. Some 120 summits are already defined in New York state. SOTA is particularly pleased to have an Association operational in the USA.

The **FRANCE (F) Association**, under the leadership of Lionel Klein, F5NEP will commence operations on 1st April 2007. This Association covers the whole of the French mainland and offers in excess of 2500 summits!

The SOTA Management Team would especially like to recognise the hard work by **Les, G3VQO** in coordinating the creation of this important new Association.

The launch date of 1st April has been designated as "SOTA Day" by the French association team and it is expected that several French summits will be activated on a variety of bands and modes.

Activity should also be busy in the UK, Germany and Switzerland that day as activators in the most active associations try to get first day summit-to-summit contacts into France.

For further details and summit lists of the new associations, please visit <http://www.sota.org.uk>

Donnachadh O Shea, EI6BKB Silent Key

26th October 1937 - 10th January 2007

It is with great sadness and pride that I write this tribute to a true friend.

Donnachadh (Dinny) died suddenly at home on the 10th January.

It was a complete shock to us all.

It is hard to talk of Dinny in the past tense

Dinny was known for his classes in the Terenure Radio Club back in the mid 1980's. He helped many a ham pass the radio theory examinations. He took over from the much missed Father Tom EI5A providing course material and his know how on construction projects.

He also took an active part in our emergency radio events especially the Mar-a-cycle 100 mile cycle trip from North to South, the last was in 1998

He also was involved in the emergency communications for the women's mini marathon, including last years one which was on the 5th June 2006.

Dinny was a man of many talents.

He was a scout leader in the 17th Dublin Scout Troop in Dalkey where he availed of the opportunity to introduce ham radio to the scouts.

He took part in many contests, I think the last one was in October of last year.



Dinny did not make friends easily. He was a very private person and chose his friends carefully, to be considered a friend by him was a great honour and privilege.

I will miss him very much as we were very alike.

He may be gone in body but his spirit remains in all our hearts.

Slán leath mo chara

73 de EI2CPB going clear with EI6BKB, over and out.

May he rest in peace.

Australian Authority cracks down on Special Event Stations

The Australian Communications and Media Authority is cracking down on special event stations. The telecommunications regulator recently tightened up the rules for amateur radio special event stations and is now rigorously applying them.

Australians have two special prefixes: Alpha X-ray for national or international events; and Victor India for locally significant events. However these will no longer be issued for recurrent events, except for Australia Day on 26 January, Anzac Day on 25 April and the ITU's birthday on 17 May.

The VI prefix will now no longer be granted for events such as the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend.

Victor India 4 Victor Victor, which has been operated by Vietnam War veterans from a location in Queensland, may also be forced off the air by the changes.

Special callsigns are unlikely to be issued for anniversaries unless it is a significant occasion, such as the 25th, 50th or 75th anniversary. Under the new rules, it is likely that only one special event callsign will be available for each event.

IRTS 75th Jubilee Logos

The special 75th jubilee commemorative IRTS logos are available to members for use on their QSL's and web sites etc.

Use of these logos will help promote the Society and the 75th celebrations. The logos can be downloaded from www.irts.ie. Simply go to the information section and click on 'Downloads'.

Enniskillen Rally Date Change

The following letter was received by e-mail on January 24th from Alan, GI6PYP, secretary of the Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club.

Hi

Sorry to have to be the bearer of bad news. We have had to move our Rally to the same date as your AGM again this year 22nd April 2007. The reason is a lack of availability of traders from the UK. At the last minute they said they had a show to go to in England on 15th. Can you please update this change in your bulletin and in the magazine.

Once again apologies for the clash, and hopefully we can get the traders sorted for next year.

By the way we have traditionally used the weekend we had planned originally, can you tell us what date next year's AGM will be on at this stage?

Regards

Alan GI6PYP
07771 811484
Hon Secretary

Maritime Radio Day Event

To remember the part radio telegraphy played at sea for nearly 100 years, during the 14th and 15th of April 2007 ex MN Radio Officers will be active on HF bands to meet Amateur Radio operators for a special event entitled "RADIO MARITIME DAY".

Participation will include, but will not be limited to, Italian, German, French, British, Belgian, Argentinian and Scandinavian former Radio Officers.

A special award will be issued to those who participate.

Please go to www.radiomaritimeday.org for further details.

IRTS Committee

Next Meeting

March 31st
Montague Hotel,
Portlaoise
1100

IRTS AGM Weekend in Cork

Final arrangements are now complete for the 75th Jubilee IRTS AGM Dinner and Rally at the Vienna Woods Hotel in Cork on April 21/22nd.

The Vienna Woods Hotel is located on the eastern side of Cork City just off the Glanmire roundabout at the city side of Glanmire village.

The weekends activities follow the usual format with the dinner on the Saturday evening and the rally and AGM on Sunday.

Anyone intending to attend the AGM Dinner should contact Dave EI4BZ to reserve a seat. The cost is €30.00. Please do not leave it to the last minute as the organisers need a reasonably accurate forecast of numbers attending. Last years dinner was a great success and this years should be even better.

This being the 75th Jubilee Dinner, we have several high profile guests attending from abroad.

For those wishing to stay in the hotel overnight, a few rooms are still available and these can only be booked through Dave EI4BZ on 087-6290574 at a cost of €140.00 per room with breakfast.

However, rooms are also available at the neighbouring Ibis Hotel at a cost of €82.00 for a single room and €60.00 for a double room. Breakfast costs €8.50. The telephone number for the Ibis Hotel is 021-4354354.

B & B accommodation is also available locally and there is a good hostel in Midleton. Again contact EI4BZ for details.

The Vienna Woods Hotel is an ideal venue with lots of parking.

For those travelling on the day, breakfast will be available in the restaurant until 1100 and tea and coffee will be available at the bar.

A lunch will be served at the hotel.

The doors will open at 1100 which will allow plenty of time to pick up the bargains before the IRTS AGM which starts at 1430.

Enquiries to Finbarr EI1CS on 021-4346622 or Dave EI4BZ on 087-6290574.

Irish Radio Transmitters Society 75th Annual General Meeting

April 22nd 2007

Vienna Woods Hotel, Glanmire, Cork

Members are hereby notified that the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society will be held at 1430 on Sunday April 22nd at the Vienna Woods Hotel, Glanmire, Cork.

Rule 23.1 requires that the committee shall, at least 28 days notice prior to the Annual General Meeting, send to all paid up members a list showing the nominees for the offices of President and Vice-President and eleven committee positions.

The following are the Committee's nominations;

President Fr. Finbarr Buckley EI1CS
Vice-President Paul Martin EI2CA

Committee

EI2HX	Pat Fitzpatrick	EI5DI	Paul O'Kane
EI2JD	Thos Caffrey	EI7CD	Sean Nolan
EI3IX	Joe Fadden	EI7IG	John Ronan
EI4BZ	Dave Moore	EI8BP	Seamus McCague
EI4GK	Sean Donelan	EI8IU	Brian Canning
EI4HX	Peter Grant		

The names of other members eligible and willing to serve as President, Vice-President or as Committee members shall be added to the list upon receipt of nominations in writing, by any ten paid-up ordinary members in the case of a nominee for the Presidency or Vice-Presidency, or by any two paid-up ordinary members in the case of a nominee for any of the eleven committee positions. (Rule 23.2)

See Page 26 of the current Year Book for all the rules relating to elections.

IRTS AGM Weekend Vienna Woods Hotel, Glanmire, Cork

Saturday 21st April 2007 at 8.30 p.m.

Annual Dinner

Tickets €30.00

**Sunday 22nd April 2005.
Rally opening at 1100**

Annual General Meeting at 1430.

**Enquiries to Finbarr EI1CS on 021-4346622 or
Dave EI4BZ on 087-6290574.**



HF Happenings

with Dave Deane EI9FBB

Firstly, let me wish you all a very much belated 'Happy New Year' and a special thank you to those who contributed to this feature over the past year.

I look forward to your continued support throughout 2007.

It has been a very busy period since the last edition, with many contests, special events and DXpeditions, and generally the bands were in very good shape.

Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

As you may recall, the previously mentioned DXpedition to the S.M.O.M. (Sovereign Military Order of Malta) caused quite a stir on the bands signing 1A4A (One aid for Africa).

Operations started at midnight on Monday 1st January and the Italian team went QRT on Saturday 8th Jan. at 11.00Z with more than 32,000 QSOs.

Several reported working them prior to this date; unfortunately this was the work of a pirate. The good news is that as this licence was issued as a fund raising event to raise funds to help build a girls school in Sudan, another operation is already planned for later this year. More info on this one as it becomes available.

Just for clarification purposes, the S.M.O.M. is not based in Malta, but in Rome. The complete name of the S.M.O.M is actually 'Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and Malta' and after the loss of the Island of Malta in 1834, the S.M.O.M permanently resided in Rome.



Bangladesh.

Also about the same time frame, the S21XA team were also QRV from Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Team members included EA3BT, Josep (SSB/Digital), EA2PA, Tony (CW), EA3WL, Nuria (YL/SSB/Digital),

EA5FX, Fernando (CW) and EA8CAC, Juan (CW/SSB).

Operations from here ran from the 9th to the 16th of January. The team worked over 17,000 QSOs over the 7 day period. This operation to be QSL'd via EA3BT.



Most wanted DXCC Entities

The following is the result of the recent Most Wanted DXCC survey 2006, listing the top 10 most needed entities.

As Swains Island, KH6, had not been activated when this survey was carried out, it can be taken, that KH8S is currently ranked at number 1.

However, this is the official 2006 top 10 listing.

1	BS7	Scarborough
2	VU7	Lakshadweep
3	P5	North Korea
4	7O	Yemen
5	KP1	Navassa
6	FR/G	Glorioso
7	3Y/B	Bouvet
8	KP5	Desecheo
9	ZS8	Marion Island
10	VKØ/H	Heard Island

The full top 100 listing can be seen on page 13 of this issue.

Lakshadweep.

As you can probably notice, Lakshadweep (VU7) is currently placed at number 2. This placement is due to be dramatically reduced for next years survey due to the recent operations from here. As mentioned in the last issue, the VU7LD DXpedition saw a lot of activity from here last December.

However, yet another major DXpedition were also QRV, this time activating some rare IOTAs.

VU7RG were operating from Agatti Island, Bangaram Island and Kadmat Island, all IOTA AS-011, while VU7MY were operating from Mincoy Island AS-106. Dates of operation were from the 15th to the 25th of January.

This multi national team made in excess of 100,000 QSOs. European QSL card requests should be forwarded to the

GDXF (German DX Foundation) however both callsigns should not be mixed in the same envelope.

Scarborough Reef.

The present number one, BS7H, Scarborough Reef, is due to be activated this year, sometime in late April.

Scarborough Reef, is located in the South China Sea and is more than 500 miles off the mainland. The reef is mostly completely submerged with only a tiny percentage visible over the water surface.

Due to these harsh conditions, there were only 3 activations ever from here.

The first took place in June 1994 and although only about 2000 QSOs were made, this operation did not count for DXCC purposes.

The second activation took place in April 1995 lasting for less than 4 days. However the team managed some 11,835 QSOs this time and did qualify towards DXCC.

The last operation took place in May 1997 making 13,154 QSOs in just over 3 days. This operation was cut short when the Philippine Navy arrived and the Chinese team had to leave.

In total, less than 25,000 QSOs were ever made from here, thus making it the most wanted entity throughout the world.

A multi national team, led by W6RGG,



Robert, have been seeking authorization for the past 3 years to land and operate from here. The Chinese Sports Federation has been given government authorization for "another assault on the rocks."

The team of operators will be from Asia, Europe and the U.S.

BA1HAM, Chen Peng, a veteran of two previous BS7 operations is one of them. The operator list is: 9V1YC, AA4NN, BA1HAM, BA1RB, BA4RF, BA1RC, BA7NQ, BV6HJ, DU1EV, DL3MBG, I8NHJ, K4UJ, K5YY, N5KO, N6MZ,

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

N7NG, ND2T and W6RGG.

Off-island supporters are BV4FH, N4XP, N1DG and W6XA.

Here are the target operating frequencies: CW - 1826.5, 3504, 7004, 10104, 10124, 14024, 18074, 21024, 24894 & 28024 SSB - 3799, 7057, 14185, 18145, 21295, 24945 & 28475

RTTY- 14080, 21080 and 28080 kHz

The team have a web site up and running at , <http://www.bs7h.com>. More update information on this one closer to the time.

Swains Island.

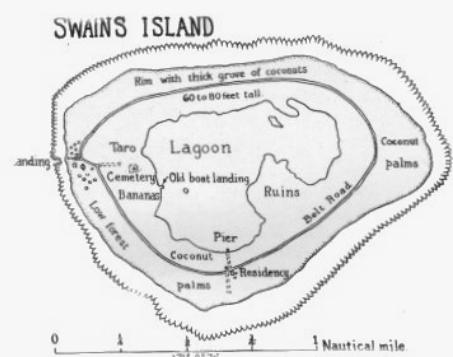
YZ1EW says the particulars of the next Swains Island operation are getting firmed up.

Scheduled for March 29-April 24, the group of YT1AD, K1LZ, K3LP, N6TQS, RA3AUU, UR0MC, RK3AD, UA4HOX, RU4SU, SV2BFN, K6SRZ, YZ7AA, YU7NU, YZ1BX and YU1AU, and possibly YU1DX and YZ1EW, will operate from Swains from April 4th - 15th 2007, ZK3A Tokelau April 16th - 19th, and 5W5AA Samoa April 20th - 24th.

The Swains stay will be 10 days with six stations on the air simultaneously, and at a cost of \$155,000.

The organizers are encouraging donations. For that, contact co-leader K3LP, Dave, K3LP@yahoo.com.

One more operator is still being sought.



Updates will be posted on <http://www.yt1ad.info/n8s/>. The team have requested the 1x1 callsign of N8S to be used.

Let's hope that this one materializes and that lots of EI's make it through.

Turkmenistan

(The following report is from EZ8AI, Berdy T. Adakow, President of Turkmenistan Radio Amateur League (TRAL), and EZ8BP, Vladimir Zinevich, Secretary of TRAL, which was received by EZ8CQ, Alexandre Levshin, and was translated from Russian into English by EY8MM, Nodir Tursoon-Zadeh)

The Turkmenistan Radio Amateur League regrets to inform that starting from 2006 Turkmenistan Ministry of Communications, without any official explanations, refuses to give radio-amateur sportsmen of Turkmenistan permission to use Amateur Radio stations. With deep regret, we inform that we have no further opportunity to work on air and to represent our country in different international competitions.

We also announce with deep regret that Barkelov Rudolf Iosifovich an honored radio sport instructor, Turkmenistan Radio Amateur League radiotelegraphists teacher, and Gubenko Aleksandr Efimovich an active first category radio amateur ex UH8AS (had no time to restore under the prefix EZ) left this world for a better one. Moreover fell forever silent the preliminary calls: EZ8BO (ex UH8BO) - of the oldest and most active radio amateur, till 2003 - a president of Turkmenistan Radio Amateur League - Zvontsov Evgeniy Mikhaylovich, and EZ8DI (ex UH8DI) - of a former chief of the central joint radio station UH8KAA (ex UK8HAA), UH9AWA Shabalin Vladimir Borisovich. For information that is more detailed you can contact the Turkmenistan Radio Amateur League, POB 555, 744020, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

Djibouti.

February 1st 2007 saw the J20MM and J20RR teams QRV from Djibouti. Operating from Moucha Island, IOTA AF-053, the J20MM team were QRV on SSB while J20RR ran the CW & RTTY stations. QRV until the 15th Feb. the teams were on all bands and some very loud signals were heard from this all Italian team.

The operators were: I2YSB, IIHJT, IK1AOD, IK2CIO, IK2CKR, IK2DIA, IK2HKT & IK2DIA.

This one to be QSL'd via I2YSB.

Here are the final QSO statistics :

Band	SSB	CW	RTTY	QSOs
160	6	1,241		1,247
80	1,889	2,940		4,829
60	67			67
40	4,123	2,964		7,087
30		5,147		5,147
20	5,745	4,544	1,288	11,577
17	3,763	4,007		7,770
15	3,757	3,764		7,521
12	465	1,018		1,483
10	686	635		1,321
6		7		7
Total	20,501	26,267	1,288	48,055



QSOs by Continent

EU	32,120
NA	8,482
AS	6,247
AF	511
SA	480
OC	215

Spratly Islands.

February 4th to 11th 2007 Spratly Islands (Philippine Region) was QRV again, this time signing as DX0JP.

Operations were from Pag-asa Island, IOTA reference AS-051.

The team included JA1BRK, JA1RJU, DU1EV, JF2ZGF, JA4DND, DU1BA & JA1HGY.

This operation is to be QSL'd via JA1HGY.

Emphasis this time around were mainly on the low bands and also on EME .

Running 4 HF stations and only 1 High power station the following EI's were able to get into the log:

160	CW	EI3IO
80	CW	EI6IZ
80	Phone	EI3GZ
80	Phone	EI6S

The good news, another DXpedition should be QRV from here by the time that you read this.

9M4SDX is the callsign that will be used when operations from Layang Layang IOTA AS-051 begin.

The scheduled dates are from the 10th to 19th March '07.

This group consists of JA1OCZ, JE1CKA, JF1PJK, JK1FNL, JR1AIB, JJ2VLY, JQ2GYU, JR7TEQ, 9M2CF, 9M2KT, 9M2TO, 9M2/JH3GCN & 9M8YY.

Running 4 high power stations, it is the teams intention to be QRV on all bands and modes.

This operation is to be QSL'd via 9M2TO.

For more update information check out their web page at: island.geocities.jp/layang9m4sdx/

Agalega & St. Brandon.

One that we had all been looking forward

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to was the all Polish expedition to Agalega, 3B6, allegedly taking place this coming March.

Unfortunately some bad news arrived just in time for this issue; it is alleged that due to the enormous costs involved in pulling something like this off and the time involved in the planning of a major DXpedition of this calibre and that the total costs of this operation had risen substantially since this was first planned, exceeding their €70,000 budget.

It has been disclosed that the team have already began refunding those who had contributed. They would also like to thank all the individuals, National societies, DX foundations, manufacturers, suppliers & clubs who had supported by either cash or equipment.

3B6 is currently at number 45 on the most wanted survey.

The following is a press release by the team leader, SP9MRO:

Today (February 21, 2007) the decision to suspend the (Polish) expedition to 3B6 Agalega had been taken. We will decide on March 15 whether it is postponed only or rather cancelled. The decision is due to enormous costs of the expedition that have much exceeded the estimated budget. The expedition was supported by PZK, SP-DX-C, G DX Foundation, EU DX Foundation and institutional sponsors as well as other hams from few countries. We would like to thank all of those. Our main sponsors have decided that the period between receiving the licenses and the time set by Mauritius' government to start the ham's activity is too short.

Due to all of that expedition's members are checking the possibility to postpone it until the 4th term of 2007 unless it collides with September's (FSDXA) expedition to St. Brandon.

All of the donations will be immediately returned the same form they were paid. We hope that, in case of reorganizing the expedition to Agalega in the end of this year, our kind donors will be able to support us once again. We would like to thank those who supported our actions, especially those from Mauritius. Simultaneously we would like to apologize to all of those who along with us counted on QSO in March 2007.

This is not to be confused with the forthcoming expedition to 3B7 (St. Brandon) by the Five Star DXers Association (FSDXA). This operation is still sched-

uled for operations to begin this coming September.

Guinea-Bissau J5 - IOTA AF-020



March 14th to 27th will see operations from Bubaque Island, IOTA AF-020. Jack, F6BUM will be signing J5BI and this will obviously be J5 Guinea-Bissau for DXCC purposes.

Running 100w into various dipole antennas, he will be QRV on 40m to 10m SSB mainly; however other modes will be possible upon request. This operation to be QSL'd to his home call, F6BUM.

Marshall Islands V7 - IOTA OC-029

IOTA OC-029, Majuro Island will be QRV from March 16th to 22nd. V73KN, (Marshall Islands) is the call issued to Keisuke, JK1QLR and will be QRV on all bands. Again, this one can be QSL'd either direct or via buro to his home call.

ZY100SCOUT

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of scouting, special call ZY5100SCOUT has been issued to Maia, PY5CA. This should be of interest to any prefix hunters, and the call is valid until the end of the year. QSL to home call.

Aves Island.

Quite an amount are still waiting for their YX0A/YX0LIX QSL card from last years Aves Island operation.

The QSLing process HAS began but as cards are being sent out in continental batches, you may have to wait just a tad longer. Aves Island was again QRV lately, this time by the 4M5DX group.

The callsign used was YW0DX and operations ran from 8th to 13th February '07. The operators were: YV5WW, YV5OHW, YV8AD, YV5SSB, YV5RED, YV5MSG, YV1CTE, YV1RDX, YV5KAJ, YV1FM & YV5TX. Running 4 high power stations they made some 21,220 QSOs in total. This was also the first time that Aves was activated on Digi Modes.

31 EI QSOs in total made it through and 137 DXCCs were worked in total. This operation is to be QSL'd via IT9DAA direct or via buro.

EI Reports

Moving onto the reports now for this past period, shows some very nice DX is being worked indeed, often with quite a simple and basic station.

Many are under the illusion that one needs quite large and complex antennas to be able to compete. This is not the case.

By just regularly tuning the bands, one can often be the first to knock across a rare DX station and therefore beat the pile-up. It seems that many are still relying on DX cluster spots to make that contact, but unfortunately by then, the pile-up always seems to be out of control. Keep tuning, listen to signals about an S3-5 and you will be surprised what you can hear.

EI9FBB

The following is an extract from my own log from the past period, mostly just using a Kenwood TS-850SAT & 400W. Due to a recent move of QTH, my antenna is now just a 40m Performance+ Windom antenna which I'm using for all bands.

Starting off with **15m** worked:

5Z4/9A3A, D60VB, 9J2BO, VU7RG, J28JA, XT2C, LX2007AD, HI8ROX, DU1EIB, HR2DMR & 9G5OO.

17m netted : BX6AP, VK4KDD, YB1AME, PZ5RA, A61TX, YW0DX, CO8LY, C56YK, J20MM, VP2MRD, 5V7BR, VR2XMT, 3V8SS, VU2NKS, EA9IE, YI1OM, VU7RG, XT2C & 4S7AB.

20m worked: JW1MFA, BA5XA, 7Q7MT, TY2SF, J20MM, 9K2MU, SU1SK, J28JA, 3A2MD, SV2ASP/A, XT2C, T77NM, UA0SJ & OX3KQ.

Working **40m** SSB mostly logged : PJ7/ CU2BP, DU1HBC, VE3VID, FP5BU, KC1XX, YW0DX, VP2VQ, Z33F, 9Q1TB, 9K2ON, A41MX, J20MM, ZS6HA, 5N8/SQ8JCA, TA1CM, CX7AT, YN2N, FS5HL & XR7C.

EI9FVB

Declan, EI9FVB sent in a rather comprehensive log with several hundred contacts being made.

Using an Icom IC756 Pro 11 into an **80m** dipole he worked : T77NM, EA9IE, R7C/TF, LX1UN, 4N1DV, EU1AI, TF3IGN, CU2CR, AA4MM, VA2JWW, LX2007D, UT5PY, LZ9X, LY1FK, EA6WX, ON60SNW & GX3RCM.

Using a ½ size G5RV for **40m** he logged : PA7TWO, Z33F, T99D, S57S, OT7X, RN4AD, LZ2007EU, 9A7KM, 5A7A & II1XMAS, a special call for

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Christmas Day.

Using a MQ24SR Beam antenna he worked **20m** as follows: EO15MID, TF4RRC, HA503FIN, K3C, DR60SBG, 5B4AHY, ZS6CCY, YU60BCD, UN9LW, WP4EDD, J20MM, 3B8GL & J3/8R1AK.

Same antenna on **17m** logged : 1A4A, CT3FQ, NT4I, LZ2007EU, LZ1FIA, EW8AM & W2QN. **15m** worked : 3B8CF, J28JA, CT9F & 5A7A.

Declan was also active during the Dutch PACC contest.

EI9JF

Nicky, **EI9JF** has again been very busy gracing all bands from 160m to even some 10m openings.

Using a Yaesu FT1000 Mk.V , 400w into a 4 Element SteppIR he has logged : C5DXC, XT2C, YV1NX, 1A4A, 5Z4DZ & 5T5DY all on **10m**.

On **12m** helogged : 5H3VMB, XT2C, TR8CA, J28JA, D60VB & P43JB while **15m** netted : C6ARI, XT2C, VU7RG, 9J2BO, J20RR, YW0DX, D60VB & S21XA.

On **17m** he netted : Z22JE, C6ARI, VU7RG, TR8CA, J28JA, 3A2MD, KP4SQ, 5T5DY, YW0DX, 5Z4DZ, YB3ASD, D60VB & S21XA and on **20m** he worked : CE0Y/JK1FNL, VP2VQ, C6ARI, XW3DT, T77C, J28JA, PJ5NA, VP8/LZ1UQ, KP3SQ, 5H3VMB, J20MM, ZK3RE, XE3RT, VK9DNX, S21XA, YN4SU, 5T5DY, ST2A, YW0DX, VR2XMT, J79IU & UN2BB.

Onto **30m** now and this time using his new ZX 2 element 30m Yagi he has logged : C6ARI, XT2C, VU7RG, XW3DT, VK6BN, PJ5NA, YW0DX, 3B9/G3TXF, ST2A, D60VB, YN4SU, HK1/AC8W, VK9DNX, VP2EST, OA5/N6XQ, S21XA & YV1DIG.

Using a Cushcraft XM240 antenna for **40m** he worked : VP9/K9CC, VK9DNX, 5Z5SG, D60VB, S21XA, V49A, TK5JO, 5T5DY, XE3RT, FM5CW, VK6HD, ZF2BJ, R1AND, P40LE, PJ5NA, DU1HBC, VP2VQ, HZ1SK, YA/LY1Y, CT9F, OD5NJ, 8P9NX, 9M6XRO, TI2TL, 8Z1IK, 5R3VMB, BA4RF, OX3XR, 8P6JD, XT2C, YI3/I2JIN, 5B4AHY & V31DV.

Using a **160m** doublet he worked HB0/DL2OBO, 3A2MD, 5B/K3KY, LA8BCA, KP2ZZ, T94GB, J75KG, TA3D, K1GE & OH5PT all on top band of course, while with the same antenna

he worked the following on **80m**: VU7RG, 9G5A, 3A2MD, EA6AZ, J69B, 5T5DY, YV1NX, ST2BF & KP2/K3CT.

I'm sure you'll agree that even at this present stage in the sun-spot cycle, one can still work all 6 continents quite easily, even with just casual operating. As you can see from the above reports, all bands open at some stage, often with long distance propagation.

With the longer evenings now upon us, the higher bands will open more frequently, with longer openings. It's worth keeping an eye on the sunspot statistics and bear in mind that the higher the sunspot figure, usually the better the propagation!

Perhaps the most useful propagation page for Amateur Radio Operators can be found at <http://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>

My thanks go to QST, Bernie W3UR (The Daily DX) & SP9MRO as reference for some of the information used and also to EI9JF & EI9FVB for their contribution.

Other log extracts & information are always very much appreciated.

Until next issue, keep tuning & working the DX.

Vy 73 to all de Dave EI9FBB
ei9fbb@oceanfree.net

AREN News

On the 20th of January, National Co-ordinator of AREN, John Ketch (EI2GN), accompanied by Assistant co-ordinator John Ronan (EI7IG) attended the Irish Mountain Rescue Conference.

Core to the presentation by the Lakeland Mountain Rescue team, was a discussion on "GPS real-time mapping of search parties".

The presentation by Dave Binks highlighted their initial experiments with APRS, and then, due to restrictions of their licensing conditions, how they developed, with the support of Team Simoco, a GPS mapping solution targeted towards Mountain Rescue.

It was a very informative presentation as was the subsequent chat.

AREN would like to thank SEMRA for extending the invitation for AREN delegates to attend.

Monthly 4 Metre Net

The 4-metre activity night takes place on the first Tuesday of each month between 20:00 and 22:00 local time. The next activity night is Tuesday the 3rd of April. Please send reports to "ei3ix at eircom dot net".

Call in frequency is 70.2625 MHz. The 4m simplexer is on 70.350 MHz.

VHF News

New Web Site to promote more activity

www.radioeye.co.uk

Ian Hogan G6TGO, based in Manchester has been receiving the EI2WRB Beacon on 144.402 MHz with a Kenwood TS2000 and a 9 element Vargarda Yagi at 21 feet above ground with no pre-amplifier.

This prompted him to contact John McCarthy EI8JA who is the beacon keeper to obtain more details and break the good news.

John informed him that the beacon is using a 5 element Yagi and 50 watts at 700 feet above sea level bearing 95 degrees. Ian's antenna is at 21 foot above ground and 108 foot above sea level, the propagation path is through the Snowdonia Mountain Range in Wales so it is being received on the side lobe of the beacon.

Tropo was strong as well during this period. An audio recording of the received signal is available on www.radioeye.co.uk on the Beacon files and there is a link to this on the SEARG web site.

The radioeye.co.uk site was set up to promote more activity on the VHF/UHF bands. They have provided an online calendar and sound clips from recent QSO's including Beacons plus much more with the purpose of generating more activity between the two countries.

They are in the process of providing a service to Blind people as well. They would welcome anybody from Ireland dropping a line via email if they are likely to be on 6 metres through to 23 centimetres for skeds by using the calendar.

The 75th Jubilee Worked EI Counties Award

The Worked EI Counties Jubilee Award is for working (or hearing) stations located in different counties of Ireland during the 75th Jubilee Year 2007.

Rules

The WEIC Jubilee Award, issued by the Irish Radio Transmitters Society, is available to licensed amateurs worldwide who have worked stations located in different counties of Ireland (EI/EJ). It is available to SWL's on a "heard" basis.

Only contacts made during the year 2007 are valid. There will be a charge of €5.00, Stg £5.00 or US \$10.00 for the award.

A separate "All 26" sticker will be available for confirmation with all 26 counties.

For applicants in EI only:

All contacts must be made from the home station. Contacts made via repeaters or while operating mobile, portable or from an alternative address are not reckonable.

Requirements:

Work/hear 20 of the 26 EI/EJ Counties.

QSLs are not required.

Submit a log extract certified by a club officer or two licensed experimenters.

The 26 EI Counties are:

Carlow	Cavan	Clare	Cork
Donegal	Dublin	Galway	Kerry
Kildare	Kilkenny	Laois	Leitrim
Limerick	Longford	Louth	Mayo
Meath	Monaghan	Offaly	Roscommon
Sligo	Tipperary	Waterford	Westmeath-
Wexford	Wicklow		

Outgoing QSL Bureau

Mail your cards directly to the Outgoing Bureau Manager:

**Anthony Baldwin EI8JK,
Rathlin, Kilcrohane,
Co. Cork.
ei8jk@amsat.org**

AFRI75 - IRTS 75th Jubilee DXpedition 2007

As part of the celebrations to mark the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society, a number of members of the Society will activate Swaziland, 3DA0, from 16th to 25th March 2007.

March 17th is St. Patrick's Day, the Irish national holiday, and the expedition will be especially active on many modes and bands on that day. The group will also take part in the CQ WPX SSB contest on 24th and 25th March.

Given that 3DA0 is still much sought after on the WARC bands, on digital modes and on the LF bands, the expedition will concentrate on these areas of operation.

It is also intended that there will be some EME activity on 2 metres, and, perhaps, some 6 metre operation time permitting. The aim of the group is not so much to rack up tens of thousands of contacts but rather to provide an opportunity for operators to work Swaziland on one of the more unusual bands or modes. We will take time to work the less experienced Dxers and to pull in the weak signal stations. So if you can hear us, please give us a call.

Members of the expedition are:

Home Call	3DA0 Call
Paul EI2CA (expedition leader)	3DA0PM
Peter EI7CC	3DA0PB
Aidan EI8CE	3DA0AM
David EI4DJ/GI4FUM	3DA0DJ
Rory EI4DJB	3DA0RH
Brendan EI3GV	3DA0GV
Pete GI4VIV	3DA0GI

QSL information for all 3DA calls used by the AFRI75 group:

Bureau - QSL via EI7CC

Direct

For direct mail return, please provide one of the following:

- Stamped and self-addressed envelope (with an appropriate Irish stamp)
- Self-addressed envelope + current IRC
- Self-addressed envelope + US\$1

and send this, along with your card to:

Peter Ball EI7CC
21 Doonamana Road
Dun Laoghaire
Co. Dublin
Republic of Ireland

A log search facility will be available on www.irts.ie

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group

The SEARG weather station, which is operated by John EI8JA in Waterford City, is now available via the searg.com web site. The station transmits APRS weather data from Waterford around the clock and has been running on test for some time beaconing temperature, humidity, atmospheric pressure, wind-speed and wind-direction information. The station is connected to the APRS network and historical and live data is available at www.searg.com under the repeaters menu tab.

Users of the Southern Ireland Repeater Network may donate to the network online if they wish. Simply click the PayPal logo on the right hand side of the searg.com site and follow the instructions.

Payments can be made for any amount using PayPal or any major credit card. Donations made using this facility will be used in the maintenance and upkeep of the Repeaters in the network which is run by East Cork Radio and South Eastern Amateur Radio Group.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of South Eastern Amateur Radio Group took place on Wednesday the 28th of February last.

The committee for the coming year is as follows;

Chairperson: Mark Wall EI7IS,
V/C'person: John Ronan EI7IG
Secretary: John McCarthy EI8JA
Treasurer: Michael Hoban
EI5DCB
P.R.O.: Nicky Madigan EI3JB

The following committee officers were elected;

Mary Foley EI1526,
Eddie Steadman EI9DJB
Egidio Giani EI9EQ.

Egidio Giani and John McCarthy remain in place as the clubs trustees.

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

Spring 2m Counties Contest

Easter Monday April 9th

1300-1500utc

Roderic EI2P and XYL Kathleen celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary

Roderic Mooney and Kathleen Roche were married on the 15th January 1947 at St. Alphonsus & Columba Church, Ballybrack, Co. Dublin.

They met a few years earlier, when Roderic Mooney was working for the family firm of J G Mooney Plc, in Dublin and Kathleen Roche was attending Trinity College, reading Natural Science. They both lived in Killiney and shared a similar journey into Dublin each day on what is now the DART.

Over the last 60 years, they have lived in Killiney, Carrickmines and Enniskerry. They have six children, Gerald, Andrea, Desmond, Garret, Stephen and Catherine and nine grandchildren.

Roderic has a keen interest in Amateur Radio for over 75 years. His call sign of EI2P is now one of the oldest in the country.

Kathleen Mooney is a keen gardener and in addition to raising the family, has worked with charities from 1950's through to the 1970's.



Roderic and Kathleen Mooney
15th January 1947



Roderic Mooney c. 1937 Killiney

Worked All Ireland Jubilee Award

A special IRTS 75th Jubilee Worked All Ireland Award has been introduced. All you have to do is work stations in 75 different WAI squares anytime during 2007. There are no other conditions.

The rules for the normal WAI Award Scheme apply. Please see www.irts.ie.

Send your claim for the award with €5.00 to:

Jubilee WAI Award, P.O. Box 462, Dublin 9

Special Event Callsigns for Scouting Ireland

2007 is the centenary of World Scouting and in 2008 Scouting Ireland will celebrate 100 years of Scouting in EI.

As part of the centenary celebrations; Scouting Ireland has been allotted two special event callsigns - EI100S (Echo India One Hundred Sierra) and EI100SI (Echo India One hundred Sierra India) for 2007 and 2008.

Scout Groups wishing to avail of the callsigns should apply to Sean EI3IP who can be contacted by email at jota@scouts.ie.

6 Metre SSB Net

A monthly six metre net meets on the first Monday of each month on 50.135 SSB (horizontal polarisation) at 2100 (local time).

Activity seems to be primarily in the Munster (south-west) area but all are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Frequency: 50.135 MHz

Mode: SSB

Date: First Monday of each month

Time: 2100 (local time)

**Next Net
Monday April 2nd 2007**

Radio Experimenters 70 Years Ago

By Michael Clarke MI5MTC

In the same year that IRTS was founded, a new experimenter's radio station was licensed in County Mayo. Its fame spread. Five years later, "the signals CW and phone, from EI9D, must be well known to most of our readers," declared RSGB's April 1937 edition of The T. & R. Bulletin, sub-titled A Journal for Radio Experimenters.

George Noblett's station EI9D was near-perfectly located in Barley Hill House on a clear hilltop near Westport.

At the base of the aerial mast, the panorama of the "western ramparts of Europe" included Clare Island, Croagh Patrick, the Twelve Pins, Achill and Nephin.

Indeed, "EI9D is Europe's most westerly amateur" wrote Stanley Johnston GI5SJ.

With photographer T.P. Allen, GI6YW, he had made long motorcar journeys between Belfast and Westport in January's snowstorms on 1930s roads to visit and report on EI9D's station to other Radio Experimenters across these islands.

Writings of Stanley Johnston and George Noblett survive in old Bulletins.

They give a vivid, enthusiastic picture of those pioneering days of amateur radio experimenting.

EI9D Amateur Radio Writer

EI9D was already well known among Radio Experimenters. He too wrote in RSGB's Bulletin, ambiguously nicknamed the 'Bull'. It was the ancestor of today's RadCom.

The by-line EI9D headed many reports in the late 1930s about amateur radio in 'The Free State'. That April 1937, he wrote with sympathy for EI2H's recent bereavement.

EI2H is on today's IRTS website as M. Dennis, the first President in 1932. EI2H had written earlier Bull reports – one, in July 1934, reported that George Noblett EI9D was elected IRTS Vice-President – "a very popular appointment".

In January 1935, EI2H listed known and active stations - EI9D and also EI2B, EI5B, EI4D and EI5F.

EI9D, writing the May 1935 report, himself had been QRP, 4 watts, but worked VE's and W's. He, in Achill, and EI2G in Avoca, planned portable operations. He reported in June the IRTS DF hunt on 11 May as a great success. EI4D and EI9D were first to find the transmitter well hidden near Dunboyne, and thus won "a brace of valves".

In April 1937, a couple of years later, EI9D reported EI8G doing well in the BERU tests (the British Empire Radio Union's worldwide contest) and fairly certain to win the IRTS sub-contest. EI6J had worked W and VE on 'phone at R7 on 3.5 Mc. T.D O'Farrell EI6F, home on holiday, likewise had put out good 'phone. He became IRTS President soon after, in 1939, remaining so until 1956, on today's IRTS website list.

BERU's curious word 'tests' is from a compromise when amateur radio resumed after the first war. Amateurs were forbidden to broadcast internationally, then allowed, but only for experiments and 'tests'. To this day, CW's abbreviation for contest is TEST.

Dermot & Frances Taheny, both EI5J

For today's Mayo Radio Experimenters Network, EI9D's April 1937 report, written 70 years ago in Westport, had an interesting mention of EI5J. Today, EI5J's daughter, Frances Taheny, in Sligo, has inherited his call. She is a past-Chairperson of the Mayo Network. Back 70 years ago, EI9D reported her late father Dermot working "VK3GG on 7 Mc. with 10 watts, using a 99-ft. top current fed". EI5J had not yet worked the States or VE, being usually very QRP, but "a good start at real DX." Dermot Taheny, in Sligo and George Noblett in Mayo, were great friends and often visited each other's stations.

EI9D's July 1938 report had a long account of Irish involvement in June's National Field Day. Around the British Isles, amateurs took to the fields in tents, erected aerials and called "test" seeking most contacts in 24 hours.

EI put up a good show, wrote EI9D. There was co-operation and enthusiasm, with, for the first time, competing portables other than in Leinster. EI8MP in Cork had three operators. The two in Sligo were, George himself, EI9DP, and Dermot EI5J. The whole of Eire was covered, Leinster, Munster and Connaught, enthused EI9D.

With all stations in operation continuously, a lot of hard work had to be done. Each got a break, of course. A photograph shows Dermot reading the paper outside, and George inside the tent, puffing pipe and pounding brass in a CW contact for NFD. Indeed, those June summer NFD outings, camping out for com-

Here EI9D, Westport.

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(Continued from page 12)

panionship and radio experiments, seemed to have produced far more photographs of radio amateurs' tents than of their transmitters, in most July RSGB Bulletins throughout the 1930s.

Experiments, Contests and a Conventionette

In October 1937, EI9D reported September's very successful Direction Finding Contest organised by IRTS, to locate a transmitter hidden 10 miles from Dublin. New licences went to James Browne, EI7M, Cork, R Newman, EI8M, Passage, Co Cork, and Desmond Ingram, Dublin. IRTS was organising a winter 'Conventionette'.

EI8G was rebuilding his 56Mcs. gear to take part in the South Wales tests, nearby to his new Wicklow QRA. Stations were active on all bands – 70 years ago in 1937 - including EI5F, 7F, 6G, 8G, 9J and 2M all "now operating regularly on 28 Mc." Clearly, in early IRTS years, just before the war, Irish amateurs were active among radio's experimental pioneers, making worldwide contacts, and building traditions still valued today. EI9D reported more news of experimenting in 1938 and 1939. In January 1938, EI9D reported December's "very interesting discourse" (at that Conventionette) in Jury's Hotel by Alan Jackson, EI8L on his 56 Mc. experiments. RD Scott, EI7C, winner of the 1931 1.7 Mc tests, was now G6TS in Andover, active on 7 Mc. and keen for EI contacts.

February's report mentioned the call EI5M used by the Royal Corps of Signals at Spike Island, a Royal Navy base that closed soon after.



Operators at EI3LP, Killiney, Co. Dublin.
Left to right, EI4N, 2P, 9N, 5P, 9D.

als looked like miniature Rugby. Thanks also went to the organiser, IRTS Secretary EI3L, EI6F (President) and EI7F for technical work, EI4N who operated the 1.7 Mc. station on Saturday night, and EI5P for long hours on 7 Mc.

The usual NFD tent photograph captioned EI4N, 2P, 9N, 5P and 9D. "To EI9M, 9F, 5G, 2L, 8L, 9N and 6J and all others who helped we say thanks OMs and here's to the next time". However, next time was to be years later. War came in September. Radio Experimenters went QRT and the Guards impounded vital transmitter components.

EI9D Mayo - Europe's Most Westerly Station

Stanley Johnston, in April 1937's RSGB Bulletin, praised that hilltop panorama from Barley Hill House and also gave much interesting information on the station, as did TP Allen's photographs. While there was little QRM and plenty of space for aerials, power was a constant problem – no mains electricity. From first licensed in 1932, EI9D had used a small motor-generator driven from a 32-volt house lighting plant.

It gave enough for a 10-watt input, with which he worked all continents except Asia on the 14, 7 and 3.5 Mc. bands. Some phone was used, Canada and US on 3.5 Mc. but EI9D's "interests are essentially in CW". Modulation was by grid control, for lack of power, and the microphone "an ordinary flat back". GI5SJ and GI6YW judged that "the quality shows that 9D has obtained the best out of the system".

The sketch on EI9D's QSL card, send in 1936, shows the 10 watt HT generator, PA and CO on a table-top 'breadboard', 1930s style, himself with pipe at the key, the 0.V.II Receiver, the headphones and the QSL card box, to hand behind him. GI5SJ wrote about this card index beside the transmitter, and its constant use. Details entered every time, EI9D had a card about, if not from, every station he worked.

Remote Control of Petrol Engines

Experimenting on the January visit with a new power unit, the transmitter was a "rack and panel job" with a 47 oscillator, and P.A. a couple of 46's in parallel. A 14 Mc. crystal was used for that band. Normally the C.O. was a DE5 driving an LS5B as P.A.

The 1937 receiver was a re-vamped Pilot all-wave, battery model, in the rack, with a BFO, and a slow-motion drive to

(Continued on page 14)



IRTS President 1938 – EI9F or EI5F?

July's EI9D report from "Eire" listed officers elected at June's IRTS AGM. The new 1938 President was W. McIlwaine, EI9F. However, he is not the 1938 President listed on today's IRTS website. Instead, the website names H. Hogens, EI5F, who was listed in EI9D's contemporary report as an Executive Committee member. The Vice President was R. Sadlier (ex-EI4D), Treasurer, T. Green, EI9N, (later President 1957) Secretary P. Murtagh EI5N, and committee W.H. Combs, EI9J and R. Martin EI9L.

Mr W. McIlwaine, EI9F, "presided" in February 1939 at the IRTS talk in Jury's Hotel by A.B. Curran on Simple Receivers. This EI9D report, in March RSGB Bulletin, also mentioned EI stations heard working in the BERU tests and congratulated EI8J "who, using 60 watts to an RK20, is now WAC on 'phone and C.W.'" Questionnaires were to be returned to EI8N about a planned EI network on 3.5 Mc. - was this an early WAI?

Killiney Aerials a Miniature Rugby

Weeks before war was declared, EI9D's July 1939 report again featured NFD, thanking Mr Field of Corbawn Lane and EI2P for two fields on the Killiney coast. Four stations and their ari-

(Continued from page 13)

spread the amateur bands. Too slow for 'BC waves', he fitted a car horn motor and a drive band, clutch, forward and reverse buttons.

The aerial was a 132 ft. end-fed Hertz, mast end 48 ft. high, house end 40 ft. and length adjusted by an "ingenious system of short lengths just outside the window", very useful when correcting crystals and changing band. Atlantic gales were a problem, so the mast was set on a concrete "keep" a sort of shed with mock turrets. A pump inside took house-water from a spring found underneath. It was also to house, nearby the Wireless Room window, an Austin 7 car engine driving a HT generator.

EI9D wrote in April that EI8G and EI6L were visiting him, for experimental work "in the rather unusual field of remote-controlled petrol engines". The simple solution was a string through a wee hole in the window frame out to the throttle. It worked. Just before going to press, GI5SJ added news of - EI9D's lusty 3.5 Mc. signals from modulating the 46's with 900 volts on their plates, and 12 milliamps plate current.

Mayo Radio Experimenters Then and Now

Stanley Johnston concluded – “9D is an amateur to the core and in the best sense of the word; when one considers his power difficulties, not to mention the question of gear and Customs troubles, the extent of his enthusiasm is apparent. His ingenuity is able for any problem that arises, and is refreshing to see.” From 1932, EI9D was Mayo’s only radio amateur. Now there is a lively crowd of them in the Mayo Radio Experimenters Network – a title that aptly acknowledges Radio Experimenter traditions pioneered by EI9D 75 years ago in that very county.

A Curious and Catalytic QSL Card

A curious old QSL card was the catalyst for this entire story. Fresh licensed MI5MTC in 2000, I encountered WAI - great fun - got a Basic Award, and met many radio friends, including John Firmin G4GUS in Norwich.

I took XYL Anne for a 2002 birthday jaunt to Westport – a scheme to get Mayo's first Rally en-route. Hearing of Westport, G4GUS sent a copy of a QSL card dated 1936 received by his late father Les, G5OQ in Lowestoft from E19D.

His late father Es, CSQ in Lowestoft from 1860-1870.
Would I try finding Barley Hill House today?

Searching by Lat and Long on the card, I eventually found it, a tight left turn into a gateway a couple of miles north of Westport on the road to Newport.

Michael Hogan was there, refurbishing the building as an outdoor activity hostel. He knew the story. George Noblett's daughters had visited their childhood home two years earlier. One, Phyllis lived in Enniskillen, just a few miles from me in



Irvinestown - WAI Square H25. The Wireless Room was still so named. Its big window and the aerial base were still there. Trees obscure the 1937 panorama, but gave shelter from the gales.

Phyllis (Winslow) had that April 1937 Bulletin about her father's EI9D station, and childhood stories of helping him with QSL cards – she may have drawn that neat sketch. She was with him, a 16 year old, at the 1937 RSGB Convention where EI9D sat beside TP Allen, GI6YW in the big photograph of delegates (extract above).

At the next Mayo Rally, I met Frances Taheny and others. She remembered her father's friend EI9D. My greatest joy from this research is that two daughters, who knew of each other, but had never met, did meet, and shared proud memories of their late fathers.

Tony Dix, G5IX an old friend of John Firmin, sent some notes from his Bulletin collection.

At the 2005 Phoenix Rally, I saw other tattered 1930s Bulletins, betrayed keen interest too soon and had to pay more than I should! They yielded lots more good evidence, and with QSL card and Bulletins, I had ample to tell this Radio Experimenter's story.

Conclusion – More Stories to Tell

From the evidence available – writings by and about EI9D - this could have emerged a narrow story about this one radio experimenter. In the hope that it becomes more, every call sign found has deliberately been mentioned - almost three dozen of them.

Each one, like EI8J, Worked All Continents, 60 watts, 'phone and CW, or Alan Jackson EI8L, discoursing on 56 Mc. experiments, in the early days of IRTS, was someone with sufficient persistence, ambition and competence to meet stringent amateur experimenter licensing requirements, and then to go on and make an historic contribution- all too briefly noted above - in amateur radio's pioneering age.

Most call signs lack a name. I got to Pat Mooney EI6DA too late. He had handed on his 1939 copy of the IRTS Call Book at a Rally. Whoever has it now must have a list of all (but a very few) of amateur radio's pioneers in that first decade of the IRTS. So there must be many more stories. I hope this one, based around one of Ireland's first amateur radio experimenters is enjoyed - and that it provokes others to tell more!

Apologies in advance for errors and omissions.

73, Michael Clarke, MI5MTC, February 2007.

The 2006 DX Magazine 100 Most Needed Countries Survey

Conducted in September and October 2006.

The complete breakdown by continent is available in January/February 2007 Issue of The DX Magazine.

A breakdown by mode will be published in the March/April 2007 issue.

World-Wide results of the 2005 survey are also shown below for comparison.

2006	Prefix	Country	2005	2006	Prefix	Country	2005
1	BS7	Scarborough	1	51	KH1	Baker & Howland	72
2	VU7	Lakshadweep	2	52	ZK3	Tokelau	54
3	P5	North Korea	3	53	FO/M	Marquesas	62
4	7O	Yemen	5	54	FT8X	Kerguelen	43
5	KP1	Navassa	6	55	YU(6)	Montenegro	-
6	FR/G	Glorioso	9	56	3C	Equatorial Guinea	58
7	3Y/B	Bouvet	8	57	H4Ø	Temotu	59
8	KP5	Desecheo	7	58	3D2/R	Rotuma	84
9	ZS8	Marion Island	12	59	CEØX	San Felix	78
10	VKØ/H	Heard Island	13	60	EP	Iran	55
11	FT8W	Crozet	14	61	YVØ	Aves Island	26
12	FT8Z	Amsterdam	15	62	KH7K	Kure	11
13	ZL8	Kermadec Island	18	63	VP6	Pitcairn	-
14	SV/A	Mt Athos	16	64	TN	Congo	74
15	VP8O	South Orkney	17	65	T3Ø	Western Kiribati	73
16	VK9W	Willis Island	19	66	T33	Banaba	92
17	VP8S	South Sandwich	20	67	C2	Nauru	47
18	ZL9	Auckland & Campbell	22	68	E5/N	North Cook	64
19	VKØ/M	Macquarie	27	69	ZD9	Tristan De Cunha	69
20	HKØM	Malpelo	24	70	HV	Vatican	66
21	FR/T	Tromelin	25	71	VK9C	Cocos Keeling	65
22	JD1/M	Minami Torishima	31	72	VK9X	Christmas Island	76
23	KH5K	Kingman Reef	30	73	YK	Syria	63
24	PYØS	St Peter & St Paul	23	74	XZ	Myanmar	77
25	KH5	Palmyra	21	75	ZK2	Niue	94
26	E4	Palestine	33	76	4U1UN	Un New York	56
27	3D2/C	Conway Reef	38	77	FO/A	Austral	83
28	1AØ	Sov.Mil. Order-Malta	28	78	T2	Tuvalu	86
29	FR/J	Juan De Nova	34	79	A5	Bhutan	70
30	KH4	Midway	39	80	FW	Wallis & Futuna	91
31	3CØ	Annonbon	32	81	T32	Eastern Kiribati	96
32	KH9	Wake	29	82	TL	Central Africa Rep	85
33	9X	Rwanda	36	83	YA	Afghanistan	67
34	T31	Central Kiribati	41	84	J5	Guinea-Bissau	-
35	FO/C	Clipperton	37	85	JX	Jan Mayen	75
36	1S	Spratly	40	86	PYØT	Trinidad	80
37	VU4	Andaman	10	87	TI9	Cocos Island	-
38	VP6/D	Ducie Island	48	88	H4	Solomon	-
39	XF4	Revilla Gigedo	35	89	JD1/O	Ogasawara	95
40	VP8G	South Georgia	50	90	CYØ	Sable Island	79
41	BV9P	Pratas	44	91	9N	Nepal	68
42	VK9M	Mellish Reef	51	92	3Y/P	Peter I	4
43	S2	Bangladesh	42	93	XW	Laos	89
44	KH3	Johnston	60	94	9Q	Dem Rep Of Congo	-
45	3B6/7	Agalea / St Brandon	45	95	J2	Djibouti	90
46	E3	Eritrea	49	96	XX9	Macao	-
47	FK/C	Chesterfield	57	97	A9	Bahrain	81
48	9U	Burundi	46	98	A3	Tonga	-
49	4W	Timor Leste	61	99	VK9L	Lord Howe	-
50	5A	Libya	53	100	V8	Brunei	87

Max Hausmann DK3MM - An Honorary Irishman

In July 2006 Max Hausmann celebrated his 70th birthday with a Dinner in Enniscrone (Co. Sligo) Golf Club. "Nothing particularly unusual about that" you might say, but then, you may not know the whole story!!

Born in 1936 in Wuppertal (50 kms east of Cologne), Max spent his early years in war-torn Germany. In 1946, following the War, Max found himself together with his brother, Walter, in neutral Ireland. The Irish government of the time sponsored a programme to bring young German children to this country where they would have a better opportunity to recover from the trauma of the War years. As part of this programme, the Hausmann brothers, in the company of more than 400 other German children arrived at the reception centre in Glencree, Co. Wicklow run by the Irish Red Cross Society. The laudable objective of the programme was that Irish families would foster the German children for a period of three years after which they would return to their German families. Max was fostered by the Orr family from Easkey, Co. Sligo and, without a word of English, went to live there. Three months later he was joined in Co. Sligo by his brother Walter, who was the last of the German children to leave Glencree.

Max and his brother spent three years in Easkey where they attended St. Anne's National School - learning both English and Irish - in addition to the other usual school subjects. St. Anne's, at the time, was a small mixed school with only 14 pupils. Despite the rigours of life in the 1940s, they enjoyed their time in Easkey where, Max claims, they were surrounded by good people. The friendships they made there survived for a lifetime.

Back with their families in Germany in 1949, the brothers continued their education, but were homesick for Ireland. This they found particularly difficult on Sundays when they heard the church bells ringing. Unfortunately, with money very short, they were not to return to Easkey for nearly 20 years. Max qualified as a bricklayer and Walter went on to become an engineer specialising in aero engines.

Max married Leni in 1956 and they had four children, two boys - Horst and Klaus and two girls - Ursula and Verena. In 1961 the family moved to Warstein where Max did most of the work in building his own house! In 1959 he acquired an old radio and through it he made his initial acquaintance with Amateur Radio - although another 10 years was to elapse before he earned his callsign.

It was not until 1968 that Max could afford to return for the first time to Ireland and his beloved Easkey.

He came with Leni, in February of that year - over land! The train from London to Holyhead was delayed because of snow-drifts. This caused them to miss the ferry and subsequently the train from Dublin to Sligo. In his anxiety to reach his destination, Max took a taxi from Dublin to Sligo at a cost of £24 - a fortune at the time!

In the intervening years, Max and his family have returned many times to Ireland and of course he has had countless QSOs with EIs and GIs. His photo album is sprinkled with pictures of Max, his family, and the Irish friends he has made through



Max Celebrates

radio - some now unfortunately gone Silent Key. John Gallagher EI8BD, Michael Crowley EI4R, Dermot Cullen EI9BT, Bill Curtis GI3GRD, Jos. Klinkenbergh EI9BZ, Jim Bartlett EI2BB, Paul Quast EI5BH, Joe McCormack GI3CSO and George McClarey EI6S are all there, among others too numerous to mention.

In addition to his German callsign Max has aired OK8MM and G5BME at various times and, many years ago, EI2VEC. He is a long standing member of both IRTS and RSGB and enjoys reading about his Irish friends in Echo Ireland.

Now back to that dinner in Enniscrone! It was not his first time at the same venue - he had already celebrated his 60th birthday there with Walter in 1996. This time he was there to celebrate his 70th birthday with his Irish friends - some of whom had sat with him in St. Anne's N.S. all those years ago. He also had other events to commemorate: it was 60 years since his first arrival in Easkey but, most important of all, it was 50 years since his marriage to Leni.

Congratulations on all counts, Max! May you have many more celebrations.

I.R.T.S. 4m & 6m Shields

The 4 Metre & 6 Metre shields will be presented to the leading 4 & 6 Metre operators at the I.R.T.S. AGM. This competition is run on a calendar year basis, 01/01/2006 - 31/12/2006.

The scoring will be calculated as follows:

Unique contacts x Maidenhead locator squares x DXCC.

All modes count.

There is still time to send your entry to the Contest Manager, Brian Canning brianei8iu@eircom.net

Unique contacts:

If you make contact with a particular station say 5 times during the year, you can only claim this as 1 QSO.

Squares mean : IO51, JO63 KM78 etc.

DXCC count : Should need no explanation!.

Quartzlab is on the move to EI

Major changes are afoot at Quartzlab Marketing Ltd (QSL).

From April 2007, QuartzLab.Com will become one of the Connogue Group of companies and will trade from Dublin in Ireland.

Quartzlab commenced supplying frequency control products to the amateur radio market in the 1970s as C&C Electronics.

The current change has been triggered by G4YIB, Dave Collings', the MD of Quartzlab Marketing Ltd, imminent retirement.

Dave Court EI3IO/G3SDL, who was one of the original Directors of Quartzlab from 25 years ago, is again picking up the reins and integrating the company into Connogue Limited, his professional telecommunications consultancy.

Full details can be found on the new company's temporary web site <http://connogue.com/quartzlab>.

This site will utilise the familiar URL, <http://quartzlab.com> from 1 April.

The QuartzLab adventure started back in the early 1970s when two radio enthusiasts were seeking to purchase some crystals. Finding a supplier of the necessary crystals at a reasonable price proved rather difficult. This was in the pre-Internet age but nevertheless a new quartz crystal factory in Singapore with good

prices and a reasonable delivery time was identified and the crystals duly arrived. This led to the idea of importing crystals for commercial mobile radio equipment on popular amateur radio channels and C&C Electronics was born.

This enterprise was started with £200 capital and operated from rental accommodation in SE London.

C&C expanded rapidly and moved into the supply of crystals for professional as well as hobby radio applications and imported quartz crystal from suppliers in Canada, Denmark, India and Japan as well as Singapore.

In 1978 QSL or Quartzlab Marketing Limited was established. In 1979 the first change of address within the London area occurred; the move to Erith in Kent occurred in the early 1980s.

Quartzlab went from strength to strength and started to manufacture small quantities of crystals itself to meet the demand for very fast delivery times. The situation carried on in much the same way for two decades and into the 21st century.

Earlier this year it was agreed that Quartzlab should move to the Emerald Isle and become part of the Connogue group of companies.

It will in future trade as QuartzLab.com.

The 'two Daves' would like to thank all past customers of and suppliers to C&C



Dave Court EI3IO

Electronics and QuartzLab Marketing Ltd for their support and custom over the last 30 years.

QuartzLab.com looks forward to continue providing quality frequency control products to the professional and amateur radiocommunications communities in the coming years.

Dave EI3IO as an active DXer, particularly on Top Band and six and four metres and is one of only three EIs who have achieved DXCC on 6 metres.

He also provides a packet cluster service to the experimenter community as part of the Two Counties DXCluster Group as

New RSGB Examination Manual

The RSGB has announced the publication of the International Amateur Radio Examination Manual. This book comprises both theory and practical tasks and can be used for group or individual study. The publication borrows heavily from the three books already published for each of the three levels of licence available in the UK.

It seeks to bring together in one publication all of the information required by the syllabus for the CEPT Harmonised Amateur Radio Examination Certificate, HAREC on which the multiple-choice examination in use here is based.

This publication is welcomed as another useful resource for anyone studying for an experimenter's licence.

The book is available through the Book Sales section of the IRTS website at www.irts.ie.

€20.00 + €4.50 p&p on www.irtsshop.com



Computer Spell Checker

Eye halve a spelling chequer

It came with my pea sea

It plainly marques four my revue

Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word

And weight four it two say

Weather eye am wrong oar write

It shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid

It nose bee fore two long

And eye can put the error rite

Its rare lea ever wrong.

Eye have run this poem threw it

I am shore your pleased two no

Its letter perfect awl the weigh

My chequer tolled me sew.

IRTS 80 metre Counties Contest January 1st 2007

The Jubilee 80 metre contest took place on New Years day and was a great success with a big participation with several stations having very high scores.

Some stations achieved the required numbers for the Jubilee WEIC award.

Counties heard were Antrim, Armagh, Carlow, Cavan, Clare, Cork, Derry, Donegal, Down, Dublin, Galway, Kerry, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Leitrim, Limerick, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Offaly, Roscommon, Tipperary, Waterford, Westmeath, Wexford and Wicklow.

Only two EI stations were not heard on the day, Monaghan and Sligo.

Maybe some clubs could look at the feasibility of mounting portable operations from some of the rear counties for next years event.

Carlow, Cavan, Kildare, Laois and Tipperary seemed to have had only one station active and these operators were unable to work their own county for a multiplier or for the Jubilee WEIC Award.

A welcome feature this year was a high level of support from across the water, with English, Scottish, Welsh and Isle of Man stations appearing in the logs.

No doubt many participants were aiming at the Special Jubilee Year Worked EI Counties Award, and many will have qualified for this award on the first day of the year.

Two GI counties were not worked, Tyrone and Fermanagh.

It was also the first time that the special call EI75IRTS was used, operated by IRTS president, Rev Finbarr Buckley EI1CS in Cork.

The IRTS would like to thank all stations for taking part and thanks to all who sent in logs. The results will be announced within the next few weeks and a special certificate of participation will be sent to each station who sent in a log.

We hope for a good turn out in the Spring Counties Contest on Easter Monday, April 9th.

Radio Theory Examination

The next Radio Theory Examination has been arranged for Thursday 28th June 2007. As with previous examinations this one will be held in the ComReg offices at Abbey Court, Irish Life Centre, Lr. Abbey St., Dublin 1.

Those wishing to sit this Examination should apply in the first instance to Sean Nolan EI7CD, 12 Little Meadow, Pottery Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin who will provide further information.

The Examination Fee is €50 with concessions for students and repeat applicants.

It must be stressed that for security and other reasons all applicants must register in advance and unregistered candidates arriving on the day will not be accommodated.

The closing date for registration is Friday June 16th.

IRTS 80m Counties Contest January 1st 2007

Listed below are the stations active from each county. This is an unofficial listing taken from just a few of the bigger logs.

Dublin (20)	Leitrim (5)	Longford (2)
EI100SI	EI6IB	EI2FB
EI2CC	EI6IV	EI2FD
EI2CL	EI8DL	
EI2CR	EI8IU	Meath (2)
EI2JF	EI9DZ/P	EI2CA
EI2V		EI6DN
EI3DY	Waterford (5)	
EI3GV	EI2HW	Offaly (2)
EI3GZ	EI3JB	EI3AV
EI4DJB	EI8CE	EI5FQB
EI4FV	EI8HL	
EI5DS	EI8JA	Wexford (2)
EI5EM		EI6GF
EI5IH	Clare (4)	EI9EW
EI6ARB	EI0CZ	
EI7CC	EI3GRB	Carlow (1)
EI7CD	EI4DC	EI6HF
EI7GY	EI8EM	
EI7JG		Cavan (1)
EI9O	Donegal (4)	EI9CUB
	EI3GWB	
Cork (11)	EI6AN	Kildare (1)
EI1VFH	EI6GS	EI6D
EI1CS	EI8JF	
EI4BZ		Laois (1)
EI5FK	Westmeath (4)	EI2BB
EI6HB	EI4HE	
EI75IRTS	EI4IJ	Tipperary (1)
EI7AV	EI6DL	EI3FFB
EI7BA	EI6HW	
EI8IR		Monaghan (0)
EI9FBB	Galway (3)	
EI9GQ	EI2EO	Sligo (0)
	EI3CG	
Louth (6)	EI4CF	
EI2JD		GI
EI4HX/M	Kerry (3)	Antrim (5)
EI4IP/P	EI2FJ	GI0DPV
EI6AL	EI8FI	GI0RTN
EI6IL	EI9FVB/P	GI0VLE
EI7IW		GI8SKN
		MI0MSR
Mayo (6)	Kilkenny (3)	
EI2MRG/P	EI3ENB	
EI3GYB	EI4CN	Armagh (3)
EI3JM	EI4DT	GI4SRQ
EI4GHB		MI1EQI
EI5GT	Limerick (3)	MI3IYA
EI9JA	EI3GDB	
	EI6IW	Derry (3)
	EI9FEB	GI7VZW
Wicklow (6)		MI0JBT
EI2JM	Roscommon (3)	MI3JVI
EI3GE	EI3HA	
EI6GB	EI8FNB	Down (2)
EI7GK	EI9HX	GI4AAM
EI8BFB		MI3SBI
EI9GE		

EI's on EQSL DXCC 28/02/2007

DXCC Confirmed		
163	EI7BA	Approved
136	EI3IO	
131	EI4CF	Approved
109	EI2JD	Approved
105	EI6IZ	Approved
103	EI9FBB	Approved
100	EJ9FBB	Approved
97	EI6HB	
89	EI9HQ	Approved
88	EJ9HQ	Approved
80	EI6AL	Approved
74	EI9ES	Approved
72	EI6JK	
67	EI8FH	Approved
66	EI9FVB	
65	EI7M	
63	EI7IX	Approved
62	EI8GP	
61	EI4IS	
59	EI2II	Approved
58	EI9JF	
56	EI1DG	
55	EI0CZ	
54	EI7IQ	
54	EI/DH0GSU/p	
52	EI8DD	
51	EI9JM	
50	EI6AK	
46	EI7BMB	
46	EI8DL	Approved
45	EI6CPB	Approved
44	EI3HA	
44	EI4HH	Approved
41	EI3EBB	
39	EI6IF	
39	EI9CF	
38	EI4HQ	
37	EI6ARB	Approved
34	EI7BFB	
31	EI8JR	
29	EI90GPO	
28	EI1KARG	
25	EI2FS	

28/02/2007

Worked All States		Worked All Zones	
50	EI9FBB	39	EI7BA
50	EJ9FBB	37	EI4CF
49	EI9HQ	36	EI9FBB
49	EJ9HQ	35	EI3IO
48	EI4CF	30	EI2JD
45	EI6HB		Worked Prefixes
43	EI3IO	506	EI2JD
43	EI4IS	342	EI9FBB
43	EI8GP	334	EI3IO
41	EI7BA	218	EI6JK
36	EI2JD	208	EI9FVB
		135	EI8DL

EI DXCC Listings

(as at February 26th 2007)

Mixed			RTTY/Digital	No Entry
345	EI7CC	Peter Ball (+1)	Satellite	No Entry
340	EI2GS	Frank O'Brien	160m	No Entry
339	EI8H	Patrick Fagan	80m	No entry
334	EI6FR	Declan Craig	102	EI4BZ
324	EI6S	George McClarey	109	EI4BZ
306	EI2HY	Anthony O'Rourke	102	EI4BZ
262	EI2GX	Tony Stack	112	EI7GL
224	EI4BZ	Dave Moore	109	EI4BZ
208	EI7BA	John Tait (+21)	109	EI4BZ
206	EI9FBB	Dave Deane	109	EI4BZ
197	EI2JD	Thos Caffrey	109	EI4BZ
174	EI8IU	Brian Canning (+9)	109	EI4BZ
145	EI6IZ	Brendan Minish (+13)	109	EI4BZ
128	EI8HA	Jim Murphy	109	EI4BZ
109	EI6HB	Denis O'Flynn	109	EI4BZ
107	EI9HQ	Declan Lennon	109	EI4BZ
104	EI5GM	Jeremy Sheehan	109	EI4BZ
			109	EI4BZ
Phone			17m	
344	EI7CC	Peter Ball (+1)	10m	
338	EI2GS	Frank O'Brien	15m	
330	EI8EM	Alan Cronin	163	EI4BZ
328	EI8AR	Bro. John Shortall	104	EI3GV
320	EI6S	George McClarey	101	EI9FBB
300	EI8AU	Bill O'Reilly (SK)	101	EI9FBB
256	EI3GV	Brendan de hÓra	101	EI9FBB
253	EI4GK	Sean Donelan	101	EI9FBB
206	EI9FBB	Dave Deane	101	EI9FBB
186	EI7II	Albert Kleyn	101	EI9FBB
180	EI2JD	Thos Caffrey	101	EI9FBB
177	EI9FE	Mike Hoare	101	EI9FBB
165	EI2CH	Gerry Morgan	101	EI9FBB
166	EI7GL	John Desmond	101	EI9FBB
147	EI7BA	John Tait (+15)	101	EI9FBB
144	EI4BZ	Dave Moore	101	EI9FBB
127	EI8IU	Brian Canning (+5)	101	EI9FBB
119	EI4HH	Jim Holohan	101	EI9FBB
118	EI9JF	Nicki Mullally	101	EI9FBB
114	EI4EX	Hugh McCormack (SK)	101	EI9FBB
105	EI9HX	Pat O'Connor	101	EI9FBB
105	EI1CS	Rev Finbarr Buckley	101	EI9FBB
102	EI9HQ	Declan Lennon	101	EI9FBB
101	EI3IP	Sean Ó Súilleabháin	101	EI9FBB
CW			2m	
310	EI7CC	Peter Ball (+3)	DXCC Challenge	
207	EI4BZ	Dave Moore	1357	EI7CC
179	EI7BA	John Tait (+22)	Peter Ball (+326)	
131	EI6IZ	Brendan Minish (+13)		
109	EI2IH	Hugh Galt		
109	EI4HM	Don Walmsley		
107	EI/GM4ARJ	JW Ferguson		
106	EI1DG	Patrick McGrath		
112	EI8IU	Brian Canning (+10)		
DXCC Honor Roll			DXCC Honor Roll	
Mixed			Mixed	
345	EI7CC	Peter Ball (+1)	345	EI7CC
340	EI2GS	Frank O'Brien	340	EI2GS
334	EI6FR	Declan Craig	334	EI6FR
Phone			Phone	
343	EI7CC	Peter Ball	343	EI7CC
338	EI2GS	Frank O'Brien	338	EI2GS
New entrants & updates are in bold.				
The 5 Band DXCC award holders are not listed by ARRL. If you have the 5BDXCC or know of someone who has, please let us know.				
Holders known to us are EI8EI (SK), EI6S, EI8AR and EI4BZ.				

Little Back Room

A little black box of jewels and rocks
with lanterns that flicker and glow
Makes lighter the gloom in my little back room
where often I hasten to go.
An anthem it peals of whistles and squeals
and of voices so ghostly and queer
That you'd never decry, should you chance to
pass by, what a brotherhood foregathers here!
Each separate tone has a soul of its own;
each voice is the voice of a friend,
United through space in this gathering place
at the rainbow's radiant end.
Reverberant sounds ride the wave that rebounds
like the waves of the sea from afar,
Reporting the doings, the comings and goings
of brothers, wherever they are.
A curious band spread over the land
yet joined from equator to poles
Disperses the gloom in each little back room
by this magic communion of souls.
I could part with a lot of the things that I've got
but I'll carry my love to the tomb
Of that little black box and the joys it unlocks
when I enter that little back-room.

From the Shack of EI3Z

I got this from the XYL of Pat EI3Z many years ago when Pat was our news-reader. It is a beautiful poem, tastefully ornamented with celtic design, and the capital letters spell out AMATEUR RADIO. Ar dheis Dé go raibh Pat agus Kathleen.

Best wishes, Bernie EI6AX

South Dublin Radio Club

The ongoing experimenter's theory classes have started again from the beginning since early February and they run from 2000 to 2200 every Tuesday night at the club's weekly meeting at the Ballyroan Community Centre, Marian Road, Rathfarnham.

The club's annual general meeting will take place on Tuesday 13th of March and all members are asked to attend.

Cork Radio Club

Con EI7DJB gave a demonstration of his sound and video editor at the club on Monday 5th February.

The Club will host their annual Radio Rally on September 23rd. in the Blarney Park Hotel.

Cork Radio Club meets every Monday night at "The Cork Foyer" Assumption Road, Cork
Beidh Failte Cach.

West Cork Rally Repeater Site Testing

On Wednesday night February 21st, AREN officers John Ronan EI7IG, John Ketch EI2GN, Declan Horan EI9FVB and Conor O'Neill EI4JN, with assistance from: SWL, James McCarthy, Kristian Wash of WIT and John Harrington of Cork Motor Club, tested a proposed new repeater site for the upcoming rally. Declan operated the base station on the hill and the others teamed up to travel the stages, shared driving, navigating and radio operating duties.

Weather conditions were less than ideal with strong winds experienced at the summit and dense fog covering the route below.

Signal reports were exchanged at pre-described locations along the entire route of the rally.

The resulting logs will be studied over the coming weeks and the Radio Communications Plan submitted to the Clerk of the Course.

This year John EI7IG will assist Conor EI4JN in managing the communications equipment for the club on the event which takes place over St. Patrick's weekend.

For more information on the Amateur Radio Emergency Network visit www.AREN.ie

MRG VHF/UHF Challenge Results

The results of the MRG VHF/UHF Challenge 2006, which was held last September, are as follows.

In the fixed section, first place was achieved by EI2JD with 26 QSO's on 2 metres giving 6150 points.

Second place in the fixed section went to EI3ENB with 9 QSO's on 2 metres and 2 on 70 centimetres giving 1558 points.

Third place in the section went to EI3GRB with 6 QSO's on 2 metres giving 761 points.

The portable section was won by EI7FAB/P with 7 QSO's on 2 metres and one QSO on 70 centimetres totalling 1615 points.

Check logs were received from EI3JD.

The best distances worked during the Challenge were 524 kilometres on 2 metres between EI2JD and G6HIE.

On 70 centimetres the greatest distance achieved was between EI7FAB/P and EI7FJ/P with a distance of 233 kilometres.

The 2007 Challenge will be held on Sunday, Sept 9th of this year.

EI0MAR Article in PW

The February edition of Practical Wireless contains a three-page feature on EI0MAR, which operates each Sunday from the vintage radio museum in Howth. The article is well illustrated with colour photographs and relates the history of the Martello tower, in which the museum is located, and its connections with the early days of wireless experimentation.

Both Lee de Forest, the American inventor of the triode valve, and the Marconi Company conducted experiments from the Martello in 1903 and 1905 respectively.

The Practical Wireless article, by Tony, EI5EM, also gives a run down on the activities of the Howth Martello Radio Group using its own regular EI0MAR callsign as well as documenting other special event activities for JOTA, International Marconi Day and the Howth Festival.

Photographs of the radio equipment used at the EI0MAR station are also included in the article

The museum is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 11 until 4 during the winter months and seven days a week from April until October.

EI0MAR is usually QRV on Sundays on HF and also monitors S23 (145.575 MHz).

More details, including a contact telephone number, are available at www.qsl.net/ei5em/museum.html.

Visitors who would like to see the station in operation are advised to telephone or email "ei0mar@eircom.net" to check that the station will be QRV on a particular date.

Fingal Radio Club

Johnny Maloney EI1CY has recently been awarded the Fingal Radio Club 'George Stritch Memorial Shield'.

This shield is awarded to a fellow Fingal Radio Club member who in the eyes of fellow members has excelled throughout the past year in their services to the Club or indeed to Amateur Radio in general.

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish Johnny a speedy recovery as he has not been well of late.

An Post Increases Postage Rates

On 1st March, An Post introduced an across-the-board increase in postage rates.

The official announcement referred to an increase of 7 cent for a standard letter, bringing that rate from 48 cent to 55 cent (an increase of 14.58%). The announcement went on to say that the increase was justified because the 48 cent rate had been in place for many years.

The announcement further pointed out that the rate for letters between 50 and 100 grams was actually falling from the old rate of 60 cent to 55 cent - BIG DEAL!!

What the official announcement fails to mention is that on this occasion ALL An Post's postage rates have been increased - with the exception, of course, of the afore mentioned 50 to 100 grams category.

Historically, An Post worked on the "drip" principle. They increased foreign postage rates or they increased the rate for large envelopes or they abolished the rate for second class letters or they withdrew the concession for open envelopes. Thus they were able to seek to increase revenue without drawing too much attention to their actions. But some of us noticed!!

Some An Post rates must be sanctioned by the Postal Regulator - our old friend ComReg.

The most important of these is the standard letter rate.

On the basis of An Post's submissions and, presumably, its own investigations, ComReg saw fit to sanction the increase from 48 to 55 cent with effect from 1st March 2007. That An Post used the opportunity of that increase to introduce an across-the-board increase is, to say the least, deplorable.

IRTS is a major user of the postal system. This Newsletter cost 70 cent to mail to you despite the fact that it was presented to An Post minutely sorted to An Post's specifications. The 1,000 renewal notices issued every year are charged at standard rates despite being mailed in bulk on a monthly basis. The outgoing QSL manager finds himself paying €11.40 for each 1 kg packet of cards he mails to Great Britain or Europe, or €14.55 for a similar packet addressed to any Society outside Europe. The in-coming QSL managers, who are very good at trying to keep costs down, now face a dilemma with the heavy QSLers that they serve.

Should they parcel up the 250 grams of cards in a tidy packet and pay €2.60 postage or should they stuff them in an untidy manner into a large envelope and pay €1.30 postage?

Either way, the cost to the Society continues to mount.

There are of course myriad other ways in which the Society uses the postal service - all of which are costing more since 1st March.

Then there is P.O.Box 462. That's an exception. It suffered its price increase from 1st January 2007.

What rankles most about the price increases is the fact that they are not accompanied by any improvement in service. In fact, the service has noticeably deteriorated. Remember Saturday deliveries? How often is your local letter box emptied? Can you be sure of next day delivery even within the same city or town? Will your local Post Office still be in place next year or the year after?

Finally, why is it that the postman or woman that we all love, works for one of the most inefficient, unfeeling and reactionary organisations in the country?



Reading the Mail

By
Michael McNamara, EI2CL

Welcome to compilation #45 of "Reading the Mail", an account of IRTS incoming QSL Bureau activity from 18 November 2006 to 27 January 2007.

Small packets (less than 1 kg) came from AFVL, ARM, ARRL, BA4CH, EDR, EX2A, FMRE, LABRE (MG), LRMD, ÖVSV, SM0JHF, TA2LZ, TA3YJ, USKA, UY0ZG, VE2KDC, VK2, YO8 and YO9.

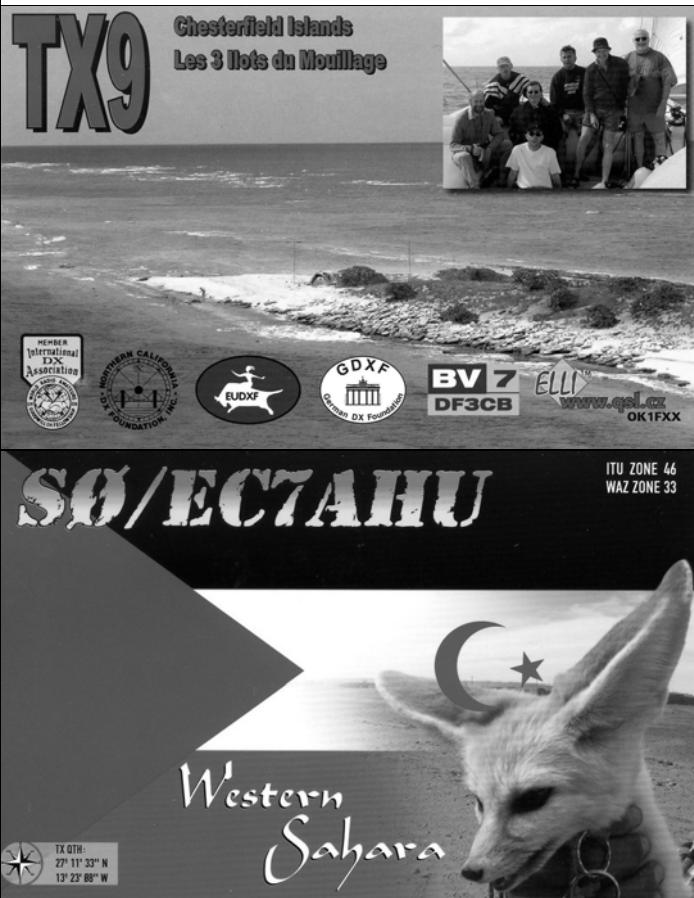
Heavier lots came from Dutch QSL bureau, HRS, MRASZ, RAC, REF and USKA (2kg each), RSGB and URE, (3.9 kg) and the usual heavyweight from DARC (9.7kg).

Cards from the following were thought worthy of mention: A22/JA4ATV, A71EM, BD1DCG, BG9TD, DQ35AGCW, EG7CC, EG0URV, EK6TA, ER0ITU, HB0AA, HE1G, HE2CC, HE3RSI, J5UTM, LI1K, LX0SAR, N1L, PZ5C, S0/EC7AHU, S01MZ, S01R, ST0RY, SU9BN, TC2K4J, TN3B, TP7CE, TR8DF, TT8JA, TT8PK, TZ6DEL, UP60A, V51AS, VI6175WA, XE1AOM (50 MHz), XU7ALI, 3XA8DX, 4J0FR, 5D6MC, 5T6BT, 5T0CW, 5X1DC, 6W7RV, 8R1K, 9G5OO, 9J80IARU and 9Q5BQ.

For IOTA chasers, notables were CE8A, EM1HO, KH6/N0CO, P40HQ, PV7G, SD1B, TA0/F5SNY, TO5R, TX9, VC9W, VK6DIR, VK6EWI, VK9LA, XR2G, YP1900D, ZA/S57AW and 3C2MV. Congratulations to all recipients.

Until my next report, all best wishes and lots of nice DX.

Michael McNamara, EI2CL



AMSAT-UK

Amsat-UK produces a newsletter Oscar News packed full of Amateur Satellite information.
For membership details contact the secretary Jim Heck
Email: g3wgm@amsat.org
Website: <http://www.uk.amsat.org/>

2007 AMSAT-UK Colloquium

AMSAT-UK reminds everyone the dates for the 2007 AMSAT-UK Colloquium are 20 through 22 July 2007.
They are holding it a week earlier than normal to avoid clashing with the Central States VHF Event.
Venue is to be the University of Surrey, as per previous years.
Details of the colloquium can be found at: [http://www.uk.amsat.org.](http://www.uk.amsat.org/)

QRP ARCI announces change from 7040 to 7030

After careful consideration based upon membership feedback, frequencies used by both RTTY and QRP operators, and recent changes and pending changes to band plans, it has been agreed by the BOD of QRP-ARCI that with immediate effect, the centre of activity for 40m QRP CW operation in North America shall be 7030 kHz.

It should be remembered that operators will continue to use 7040 kHz as conditions and previously scheduled events dictate.

However, the 'official' CW center of activity for members and QRP ARCI operating events will now be 7030 kHz.

This brings the North American frequency of operation in line with the rest of the world.

Solar Minimum

According to K7RAs weekly propagation forecast this month just might be the bottom of the cycle.
NOAA predict that the smoothed sunspot number for March 2007 will be 11.3, and it rises after that through the end of the year.

IRTS Committee Meeting

March 31st

Montague Hotel, Portlaoise

Start 1100

Lough Erne Amateur Radio Show

Share Centre, Lisnaskea

April 22nd 2007

Details from:

Alan GI6PYP on 07771 811484 or 0286 6351108

E-mail: alan.r.gault@homecall.co.uk
<http://www.loughneradioclub.co.uk/>

Contest Calendar

March 2007

17/19th	0200-0200	BARTG Spring RTTY	RTTY
17/18th	1200-1200	Russian DX Contest	CW/SSB
17/18th	1200-1200	DARC HF SSTV	SSTV
24/25th	0000-2359	CQWW WPX	SSB

April 2007

7/8th	1500-1500	SP DX Contest	CW/SSB
9th	1300-1500	IRTS 2m Counties	CW/SSB/FM
14/15th	0700-1300	JA International DX	CW
14th	1600-1959	EU Spring Sprint	CW
14/15th	2100-2100	Yuri Gagarin International DX	CW
21st	0000-2359	Holyland DX Contest	CW/SSB
21st	1600-1959	EU Spring Sprint	SSB
23/27th	0001-2359	EUCW/FISTS QRS Party	CW
28/29th	1200-1200	SP DX RTTY Contest	RTTY
28/29th	1300-2359	Helvetia Contest	CW/SSB/Digi

May 2007

5/6th	0000-2359	Marac County Hunters	CW
5/6th	2000-1959	ARI International DX Contest	CW/SSB/RTTY
12/13th	1200-1200	A/Volta RTTY DX Contest	RTTY
12/13th	1200-1200	CQ-M International DX Contest	CW/SSB
19/20th	1200-1200	EU PSK DX Contest	PSK31
19/20th	1200-1200	H.M. The King of Spain Contest	CW
26/27th	0000-2359	CQWW WPX Contest	CW

June 2007

2/3rd	1500-1500	IARU Region 1 Field Day	CW
9th	0000-2359	Portugal Day Contest	All
9/10th	1500-1500	GACW WWSA CW DX Contest	CW
16/17th	0000-2359	All Asian DX Contest	CW
23/24th	1200-1200	H.M. The King of Spain Contest	SSB
23/24th	1200-1200	Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest	RTTY/PSK31
23/24th	1200-1200	Marconi Memorial Contest	CW

For details of smaller contests and links to contest rules and results try the following:

WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

SM3CER Contest Service <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/>

JBT Trading

MI0JBT Jim Bob Traynor, Limavady, Northern Ireland

Specialising in the supply of new & used amateur and CB radio equipment.

Always wanted - good clean used equipment.

**Tel/Fax 028 77765045 Mobile 0774 0721770 Email: jimbobtraynor@utvinternet.co.uk
www.mi0jbt.com**

Latest Stock

Just in - Ranger 811H in perfect working order, 800 watts a great amp.£600.00, delivered
Just in - SGC-231 Smart Tuner, a few weeks old as new, never been used outside.....£225.00, delivered
Just in Palstar PSU in nice condition,£70.00, delivered
New in - FT-817 in lovely condition, boxed with manual, PSU etc,£295.00, postage at cost
New in - FT-847 in pristine condition, only 11 months old, a perfect radio and a steal at£750.00, delivered
New in - used Diamond 30 amp power supply, ..£75 plus p+p
New in - used Kenwood PS-50 power supply ..£100 plus p+p
New in - used MFJ 10 band vertical antenna£150 plus p+p
New in - Hustler 6 band vertical antenna, never used new in box unopened,£225 plus p+p
New in - used Yaesu FC-901 tuner g. condx£150 plus p+p
New in - used Yaesu FT-902D, mint condition £375 plus p+p
New in - used Icom IC-821, 2m and 70cm£350.00
New in - Icom IC-7000+ monitor only 8 months old £825.00
New in - FT-1000 Mk 5 Field, immaculate condition, boxed, with manual, only 11 months old.....£1250.00
New in - IC-706 Mk2 in good condition , boxed with manual and working perfectly£400.00
New in - used Yaesu FT-897D as new, unmarked, in perfect condition£500.00
Used MD-200 as new, not a mark£185.00 delivered
TS-850S in nice condition with manual, power lead and mic ...cleanest around.....£650.00, delivered
New Watson 30 amp power supply£129.00 delivered
New Watson Hunter freq finder£50.00, delivered
New Watson FC-130 freq finder£60.00, delivered
Icom IC-756 PRO in very good condition, a great radio ...a good price£800.00, delivered
Nevada 2 Kw ATU in great condition£150.00, delivered
Yaesu FT-847 in truly mint condition£695.00, delivered
New Yaesu GS-065 mast head bearing£47.50, delivered

All prices include delivery to the UK and Northern Ireland with one week returns if any item is not as described.

Trade-ins are always welcome.

All emails will be answered a.s.a.p.

All types of Antenna's available from a mini magmount to a mono band beam

Mobile Antennas

from the Watson , Sirio ,Wilson and Multicom range ...

for VHF , UHF , HF , CB Radios , Marine Bands , Air Band and Scanning Antennas ...

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Beams and rotators from the very small range to the much larger multi band beams and rotators and accessories...

All items carry a full 12 months guarantee
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MFJ, Vectronics, Mizuho**

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All types of Coaxial Plugs and Adapters available
All types of Coax Cable stocked

Power Cable
Microphone Plugs and Sockets
Din Plugs - Banana Plugs
Ferrite Rings

Too many to list - give me a call

IRTS VIDEO LIBRARY

Listed are the videos being held by the IRTS Video Library.
Please include €2.00 Euro to cover the cost of postage. Send your
requests to: Jim Ryan EI3DP, 11 Knockgriffin, Midleton , Co. Cork.

Amateur Radio for beginners (RSGB)

This is an excellent video in two parts, the hobby of the space age, (22 minutes) followed by "How to become a radio Amateur". (21 minutes)

Fastnet Force 7

A record of the DXpedition to Fastnet Rock Lighthouse, (40 minutes)

Kippure

A tour or the RTE Radio/TV site at Kippure mountain (30 minutes)

Howland Island Dxpedition

Record of the HI Group 1988 trip NO1Z / KH1. (30 minutes)

The New World of Amateur Radio – ARRL

A short introduction to the hobby of Amateur Radio (30 minutes)

Amateur TV in Australia – VK5KG

An introduction to FSTV in Australia. (30 minutes)

Seven Days in Space – NASA

A week on board the American shuttle Discovery. (60 minutes)

Amateur TV – RSGB

Fastscan TV in UK also includes the VK5KG film. (120 minutes)

DATA trip to Dayton 1990

A record of the trip to America by the Dublin Amateur Travel Association (120 minutes)

IRTS Anniversary Lunch

A record of the lunch held in the Clarence Hotel Dublin to pay tribute to the founder members of the IRTS, October 1992. (60 minutes)

Dublin Texas W5IMF

A tape by W5IMF at the time of the Dublin Millennium 1988, (30 minutes)

Introduction to Ham Radio

Includes STS 9 mission and fighter aircraft.

EI60LRC

Limerick Radio Club is QRV as EI60LRC until the end of the year to mark 60 years since the clubs foundation.

Members Advertisements

For Sale:

FT221R, all mode Transceiver. 144-148 MHz.

P.M.O. with hand microphone and manual.

Icom 737 transceiver. All mode. 100w. Scanning mode. Internal ATU. 101 memory channels. Filters fitted: FL35A & FL101. P.M.O. Requires 13.5V DC, 20A.

Best offers. Call 01-2809382 anytime.

For Sale:

Portable telescopic aluminium masts are again available. Extended lengths available are 24ft and 36ft, retractable to 6ft and 9ft respectively.

Drive-on bases are also available for use with the above masts. Please contact Declan EI9FVB @ 086-3336386 or Conor EI4JN @ 087-7993085 for further details.

For Sale:

2 Drake HF 3300 Low Pass Filters, (1kw) Mint condition

Contact Eoin on 086-6009110

For Sale: Tribander Mosley TA33 Mosley

Wanted: Vertical Antenna

Phone EI6GA at QTHR 2824626.

Wanted: Valve HF transmitter. CW only, WARC bands not required.

Ring Ted on 01-2873528 or email crowleyted@eircom.net

For Sale:

Home brew QRO Linear:

Cushcraft X-7 Triband Yagi €700.00

Hygain TH11DX 5 Band HF Yagi €800.00

New Cushcraft 424 70cm Yagi €375.00

M-Square 2m 12 element Yagi, New €250.00

M-Square 2m 12 element Yagi , used €175.00

M-Square 432 wavelengths 21 foot boom, New €270.00

M-Square 432 as above but used €190.00

SHF 2367, 67 elements, 16 foot boom 1.2GHz Yagi €225.00

Mast Head SSB super Amp 70cm SSB-SSP 7000 €225.00

Mast Head SSB super Amp SSP23 1.2GHz €225.00

SSB Sequencers (New)

DCW 15B (2) ... €100.00 each: 15-155, 1.2 GHz €130.00

Tower tabernacle, Stainless steel with thrust bearing €250.00

P.A. valves (2) New...

Oscilloscope 1.8-2 MHz €500.00

Oregon Scientific WMR-928 Weather Station €480.00

Cables—Heliax 0.5" 50 Ohm and 0.75" 75 Ohm. LDF 75 Ohm

Ring Eddie on 086-8224992

For Sale:

HF Yagi. Hy Gain Explorer 14. 4 band, 10,15, 20 & 40m, in Cork area, perfect condition, assembled, buyer dismantles & collects, great antenna capable of 1Kw €450.00

Ring Dermot on 087-8275552

Bangor and District ARS

**Summer
"Radio and Computer Rally"
on
Sunday 17th June 2007.**

A good selection of traders will be attending and the always excellent bring and buy will be in operation.

It will be located at the Crawfordsburn Country Club.

Doors open at 12 noon.

ADMISSION IS FREE.

Further details from club website www.bdars.com or
Contact Bill GI4AAM Telephone (028) 9181 6707
Email : bill.langtry@btinternet.com

International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend

0001utc 18th to 2359utc 19th August 2007

The international Lighthouse/Lightship weekend has become one of the highlights of the year for amateur radio operators across the globe. The event helps promote public awareness of lighthouses and lightships and highlights the need for their preservation whilst raising the profile of amateur radio.

This year's activity starts 0001 UTC on Saturday the 18th and finishes 2359 UTC Sunday the 19th August.

Space is, of course, limited in a lighthouse, therefore activity does not have to take place within the lighthouse itself. However, the guidelines dictate that the amateur station should be set up at or adjacent to the chosen lighthouse, for example, in an adjoining field, in which case permission should be sought from the relevant land owners.

The event is NOT a contest ,and the emphasis for the participants has always been to have fun, without the pressure to make a large numbers of contacts.

For further details and to register for the event,
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The ILLW is an annual amateur radio event sponsored by the Ayr Amateur Radio Group, Scotland. www.gm0ayr.org

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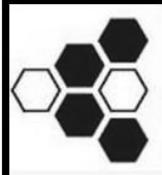
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